WEDNESDAY
January 8, 2025

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Sonalika: The Impossible Indian Success Story

Sh. L. D. MITTAL
Chairman - Sonalika Group

Turnover US $1.1 bn

A Debt-Free Approach since inception

3 core philosophies - best products & services, prioritizing stakeholders & an ethical approach with no shortcuts.

India is blessed with visionaries whose relentless efforts have left an indelible mark and touched the heights of success. In a candid conversation, the visionary tractor titan, Sh. L. D. Mittal, Chairman of Sonalika Tractors, shares how his dream of empowering the farming community became the cornerstone of this unbelievable Indian success story.

Q. Sonalika's growth story is unbelievable. What is the success mantra behind this?

Sonalika was born in a small non-industrial town of Hoshiarpur in Punjab and has risen to be in the list of Fortune 500 India 2024 Largest Companies with an overall turnover of estimated US $1.1Bn. This is beyond imagination, yet true. What brought us here is a strong belief of providing global technologies to our farmers to ease their work and enhance farm productivity, irrespective of the scale of operations. Since inception the foundation of **Sonalika is built on 3 philosophies - Offer best product and services to our customers, prioritise stakeholder interest and do business with highest standards of ethics and take no shortcuts for excellence.**

In the early days when we started manufacturing threshers, we were clear that we had to give the best products, often making cost a secondary consideration. The approach helped us to win the confidence of the farmers and understand their needs intimately. We were overwhelmed with their response and they requested us to make superior quality tractors as well. This encouraged us to enter the tractors business in1995. There has been no looking back ever since with Sonalika winning the hearts of millions of farmers across the country and globally with its customer-centric approach to provide high quality tractors, backed by a reliable service and spares support.

We made this tougher by imposing our own self-discipline in business principles and conviction to grow with our self-resources. The ride was not easy and, often, there were questions of survival. However, on each occasion we emerged stronger by sticking to our principle **of remaining debt-free**. This has helped us in thinking differently and doing things differently that has made us self-reliant. We started with no manufacturing plant or R&D, but a firm belief that **what we were doing is right** as I firmly believe that 'Koshish karne walon ki kabhi haar nahi hoti'. This approach has kept us focused in design and develop our own farm technologies to offer varied solutions for each customer segment.

The success of our customers has led the company to record numerous milestones in the journey so far that cannot be expressed in words. We take pride in being the No. 1 tractor export brand from India, operating under a proud Indian name, rather than being a contract manufacturer to an outside brand. Our exports market share is nearly double of the next competitor with presence over 150+ countries. In India - the world's biggest tractor market, we are the 3rd largest tractor brand that strives for excellence in every aspect of the agriculture sector and consistently surpasses industry growth, a statement of trust that customers have in us.

Q. How did you make sure to deliver the best solutions to the customers and stay true to your philosophy?

We have continued to strengthen our belief to deliver the best in everything that we do irrespective to the scale of business - be it the initial volume of 100 tractors a month to nearly 15,000 tractors a month today. We are always close to our customers and ensure that we understand their growing needs and quickly improve our products to meet the requirement.

During the initial years our requests to our suppliers for modifications in engines and other aggregates were not entertained by them on account of our low volumes. That is when we decided to build our own capabilities to make tractor components in-house, be it engines, transmissions, sheet metal, gear box and so on to ensure that the necessary modifications are done quickly and needs of our customers are fulfilled. Eventually, the demand for our heavy-duty tractors kept increasing exponentially and became so high that we decided to expand our manufacturing prowess which today is the World's No.1 fully integrated tractor plant in Hoshiarpur. This state-of-the-art manufacturing plant rolls out 1 tractor every 2 minutes, backed by robotic operations and automated production lines which are flexible to make different engines and transmission on the same assembly line. Till date, the plant remains unmatched in its capacities. Today, we develop over 2,000 models catering to specific needs of domestic and export markets.

We continue to work closely with our vendors and handhold them in setting up their manufacturing base in Hoshiarpur. This has helped us to create a complete business ecosystem around our factory. To further enhance our technical expertise and offer the best solutions to customers, **we tied up with global companies such as Renault & Yanmar.**

I feel delighted to see happy faces of the farming community and it keeps me inspired to do everything that can to simplify their lives and support and make their life better. Delivering top quality products and services that consistently exceed customer expectations has been our No. 1 priority. We stand committed to innovate continuously and address every farmer's needs and keep refining our strategies to deliver supreme customer satisfaction.

Q. What is the philosophy of Sonalika towards its stakeholders?

Sonalika believes that everyone who is associated with us is a part of 'One Big family and everyone is important'. One case in point is the COVID-19 pandemic that tested industries globally, and Sonalika was no exception. However, Sonalika stood as a shining example of resilience and care for its partners. We prioritized employees by paying their salaries in advance during uncertain times and did not lay-off a single worker. Every supplier was paid-off on time and even in advance so that they too could take care of their employees and business needs. Sonalika takes pride in its **family-oriented culture**, which has helped us to navigate challenging times with unity and strength.

Our decisions and actions are guided by the **core values of integrity, empathy and accountability**. These shared values uphold ethical standards, fostering trust and credibility for our stakeholders, creating an all-inclusive environment of transparency and commitment.

The philosophy has gone a long way in building a performance led work culture that believes in teamwork and its only purpose is to improve every day. We have examples of employees who started with us and are head of departments now, dealers who started as small businessmen and have turned into business tycoons and suppliers who have grown big with us. The Sonalika family is built on trust and that converts into loyalty and dedication towards our business. **Numbers will keep growing, what is more important for us is our belief in our people.** We are proud of the family of over 8,000 employees and over 20,000 vendors & dealers.

Sonalika is committed to be a trustworthy partner of over 17 lakh farmers globally. It not only provides best in class tractors but also believes in transparency in its dealings with the farmers. It is the only company that displays its tractor prices on its website unlike many other tractor companies. The company has also ventured into **NBFC services** to assist farmers with financing options.

Q. What is your message to aspiring entrepreneurs?

"Ae jazba-e-dil agar main chahun har cheez muqammil ho jaaye, manzil ke liye do kadam chalun aur samne manzil aa jaaye' – these words by Mirza Ghalib inspire me work hard every day and yet believe that there is no shortcut to success. Focus on **hard work and execution** over mere ideas and presentation skills. True success lies in persistence and action rather than waiting for external validation or funding. Take ownership of your future!

In conclusion, we believe that **farmers' prosperity** is integral to the growth of not just the tractor industry but also the economy as a whole. Sonalika remains committed to its vision of empowering farmers and achieving sustainable growth. I believe my journey will be fulfilling when ***'Kisan Ka beta bhi Kisan banna chahega.'***

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ELECTRICITY REGULATION

Karnataka HC strikes down Centre's rules

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COMBINED ENDEAVOUR

U.S. to join India to make sonobuoys

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DATA POINT

Maoists losing ground but threat persists

Recent attacks show they remain dangerous

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NEW HORIZON

V. Narayanan named new ISRO Chairman

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NEARBY

ED raids head office of BBMP

BENGALURU
Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths raided the BBMP head office on Tuesday in connection with a probe over the alleged borewell and reverse osmosis units scam.

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Dalit leaders' dinner meet called off

BENGALURU
In a move to show the strength of SCs and STs, Minister G. Parameshwara who proposed to hold a "dinner meeting" with leaders of the community, called it off and postponed it to an unspecified date.

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OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Delhi votes on Feb. 5 in crucial Assembly polls

Voting will be held in a single phase in national capital; bypolls in the Assembly constituencies of Erode (East) in T.N. and Milkipur in U.P. will be held the same day; counting will be held on Feb. 8

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Voting for the 70-member Delhi Assembly will be held in a single phase on February 5, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday.

Byelections to the Assembly constituencies of Erode (East) in Tamil Nadu and Milkipur in Uttar Pradesh will be held on the same date.

Counting of votes will take place on February 8.

While the last date for filing nominations is January 17, the scrutiny of nominations will be completed by January 18. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is January 20. The entire poll process will be completed by February 10.

The term of the current Assembly in the national capital ends on February 23.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and the Election Commissioners announcing the poll schedule. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Choice of date

Announcing the dates at a press conference here, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the polling date had been deliberately placed on a Wednesday (weekday) as in Maharashtra so that more people could vote.

According to the final electoral rolls published on Monday, Delhi has a total of 1.55 crore voters, of which 83.49 lakh are men, 71.74 lakh women, and 1,261 transgender people. There are 25.89 lakh young voters, 2.08 lakh first-time voters, and 830 above 100 years of age.

Intense battle

An intense battle is on the cards as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, is seeking a third term in office. In the 2020 Assembly polls, the AAP won 62 seats, BJP eight, and the Congress nil.

The byelection was necessitated in Milkipur as Awadhesh Prasad of the Samajwadi Party quit the seat after being elected to the Lok Sabha from Ayodhya, and in Erode (East), due to the death of Congress MLA E.V.K.S. Elangovan.

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ON ELECTORAL ROLLS
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GDP growth projected to fall to four-year low at 6.4%

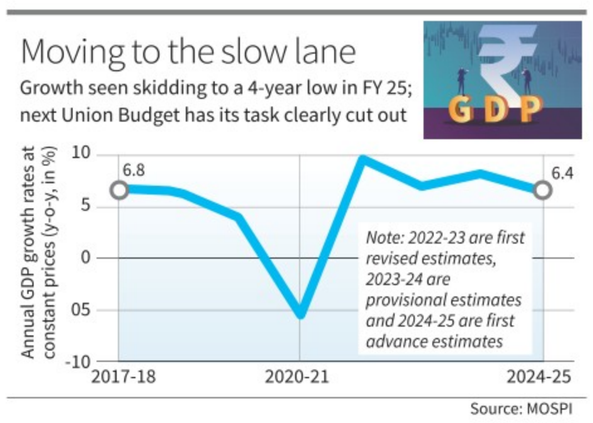
Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to rise at a four-year low pace of 6.4% in this financial year, down from 8.2% in 2023-24, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said on Tuesday in its first advance estimates of GDP for 2024-25.

This implies that the country's economy, that grew 6% in the first half of this financial year, is expected to rebound with a 6.8% surge in the second half.

The real Gross Value Added (GVA) in the Indian economy is reckoned to rise 6.4% as well, relative to a 7.2% uptick in 2023-24. Just two of eight broad economic sectors are seen to be clocking a higher growth than last year – Agriculture that is expected to rise 3.8% from 1.4% last year, and Public Administration, Defence and Other Services, seen growing 9.1% from a 7.8% increase recorded in 2023-24.

Manufacturing GVA growth is expected to nearly halve from 9.9% in 2023-24 to 5.3% this year, while GVA in Mining and Quarrying is estimated to rise just 2.9% from 7.1% a year ago.


Moving to the slow lane
Growth seen skidding to a 4-year low in FY 25; next Union Budget has its task clearly cut out
GDP
Annual GDP growth rates at constant prices (y-o-y, in %)
10
5
0
05
-10
6.8
6.4
Note: 2022-23 are first revised estimates, 2023-24 are provisional estimates and 2024-25 are first advance estimates
2017-18
2020-21
2024-25

Source: MOSPI

Investment growth

A broader worry is the NSO's projection that gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), an indicator of fresh investments in the economy, is expected to grow at a pace of just 6.4% compared with a 9% rise in 2023-24.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹184.88 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25, against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2023-24 of ₹173.82 lakh crore," the NSO said.

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126 killed, 188 injured as earthquake hits Tibet; tremors felt in India, Nepal

Rubble remains: Damaged houses in Xigaze of Tibet after an earthquake hit the area. AFP

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

A devastating earthquake in China's remote Tibet region killed at least 126 people on Tuesday, state media reported, with tremors also felt in neighbouring Nepal's capital Kathmandu and parts of India.

Around 188 people were injured as the earthquake struck the rural, high-altitude Tingri county. The China Earthquake Networks Center measured its magnitude as 6.8, while the U.S. Geological Survey reported it as 7.1.

FULL REPORT ON
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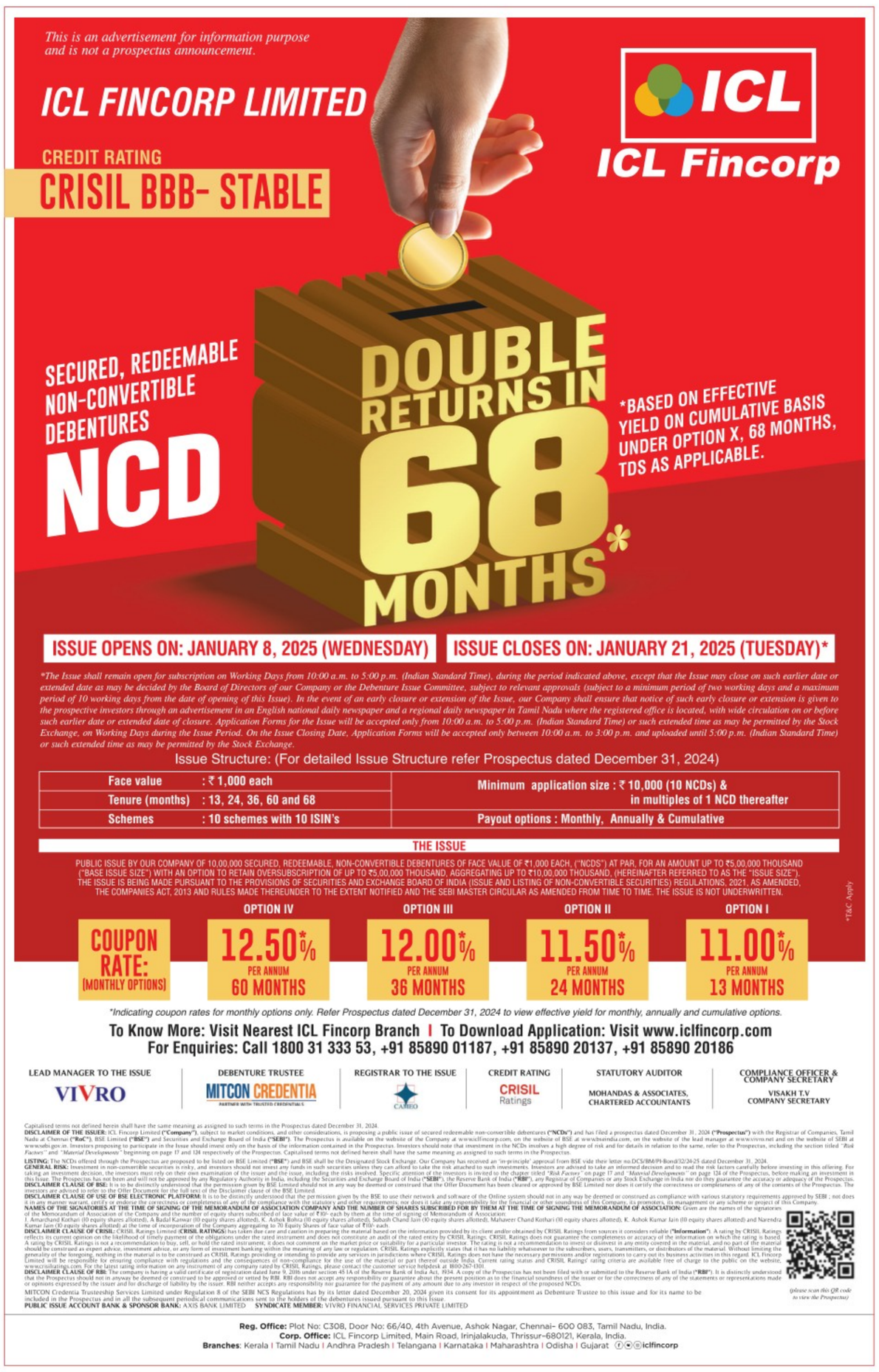
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DOUBLE RETURNS IN 68 MONTHS*
*BASED ON EFFECTIVE YIELD ON CUMULATIVE BASIS UNDER OPTION X, 68 MONTHS, TDS AS APPLICABLE.
ISSUE OPENS ON: JANUARY 8, 2025 (WEDNESDAY)
ISSUE CLOSES ON: JANUARY 21, 2025 (TUESDAY)*
*The Issue shall remain open for subscription on Working Days from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time), during the period indicated above, except that the Issue may close on such earlier date or extended date as may be decided by the Board of Directors of our Company or the Debenture Issue Committee, subject to relevant approvals (subject to a minimum period of two working days and a maximum period of 10 working days from the date of opening of this Issue). In the event of an early closure or extension of the Issue, our Company shall ensure that notice of such early closure or extension is given to the prospective investors through an advertisement in an English national daily newspaper and a regional daily newspaper in Tamil Nadu where the registered office is located, with wide circulation on or before such earlier date or extended date of closure. Application Forms for the Issue will be accepted only from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange, on Working Days during the Issue Period. On the Issue Closing Date, Application Forms will be accepted only between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and uploaded until 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange.
Issue Structure: (For detailed Issue Structure refer Prospectus dated December 31, 2024)
Face value : ₹ 1,000 each
Minimum application size : ₹ 10,000 (10 NCDs) & in multiples of 1 NCD thereafter
Tenure (months) : 13, 24, 36, 60 and 68
Schemes : 10 schemes with 10 ISIN's
Payout options : Monthly, Annually & Cumulative
THE ISSUE
PUBLIC ISSUE BY OUR COMPANY OF 10,00,000 SECURED, REDEEMABLE, NON-CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹1,000 EACH, ("NCDS") AT PAR, FOR AN AMOUNT UP TO ₹5,00,00 THOUSAND ("BASE ISSUE SIZE") WITH AN OPTION TO RETAIN OVERSUBSCRIPTION OF UP TO ₹5,00,000 THOUSAND, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹10,00,000 THOUSAND, (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "ISSUE SIZE"). THE ISSUE IS BEING MADE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (ISSUE AND LISTING OF NON-CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES) REGULATIONS, 2021, AS AMENDED, THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND RULES MADE THEREUNDER TO THE EXTENT NOTIFIED AND THE SEBI MASTER CIRCULAR AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME. THE ISSUE IS NOT UNDERWRITTEN.
OPTION IV
COUPON RATE: (MONTHLY OPTIONS)
12.50% PER ANNUM 60 MONTHS
OPTION III
12.00% PER ANNUM 36 MONTHS
OPTION II
11.50% PER ANNUM 24 MONTHS
OPTION I
11.00% PER ANNUM 13 MONTHS
*T&C Apply
*Indicating coupon rates for monthly options only. Refer Prospectus dated December 31, 2024 to view effective yield for monthly, annually and cumulative options.
To Know More: Visit Nearest ICL Fincorp Branch | To Download Application: Visit www.iclfincorp.com
For Enquiries: Call 1800 31 333 53, +91 85890 01187, +91 85890 20137, +91 85890 20186
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COMPLIANCE OFFICER & COMPANY SECRETARY
VISAKH T.V
COMPANY SECRETARY
Capitalised terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as assigned to such terms in the Prospectus dated December 31, 2024.
DISCLAIMER OF THE ISSUER: ICL Fincorp Limited ("Company"), subject to market conditions, and other considerations, is proposing a public issue of secured redeemable non-convertible debentures ("NCDs") and has filed a prospectus dated December 31, 2024 ("Prospectus") with the Registrar of Companies, Tamil Nadu at Chennai ("RoC"), BSE Limited ("BSE") and Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Prospectus is available on the website of the Company at www.iclfincorp.com, on the website of BSE at www.bseindia.com, on the website of the lead manager at www.vivro.net and on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. Investors proposing to participate in the Issue should invest only on the basis of the information contained in the Prospectus. Investors should note that investment in the NCDs involves a high degree of risk and for details in relation to the same, refer to the Prospectus, including the section titled "Risk Factors" and "Material Developments" beginning on page 17 and 124 respectively of the Prospectus. Capitalised terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as assigned to such terms in the Prospectus.
LISTING: The NCDs offered through the Prospectus are proposed to be listed on BSE Limited ("BSE") and BSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange. Our Company has received an 'in-principle' approval from BSE vide their letter no DCS/BM/PI-Bond/32/24-25 dated December 31, 2024.
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NAMES OF THE SIGNATORIES AT THE TIME OF SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF SHARES SUBSCRIBED FOR BY THEM AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION: Given are the names of the signatories of the Memorandum of Association of the Company and the number of equity shares subscribed of face value of ₹10/- each by them at the time of signing of Memorandum of Association: J. Amarchand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), A Badal Kanwar (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Bohra (10 equity shares allotted), Subash Chand Jain (10 equity shares allotted), Mahaveer Chand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Kumar Jain (10 equity shares allotted) and Narendra Kumar Jain (10 equity shares allotted) at the time of incorporation of the Company aggregating to 70 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10/- each.
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DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF RBI: The company is having a valid certificate of registration dated June 9, 2016 under section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. A copy of the Prospectus has not been filed with or submitted to the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI"). It is distinctly understood that the Prospectus should not in anyway be deemed or construed to be approved or vetted by RBI. RBI does not accept any responsibility or guarantee about the present position as to the financial soundness of the issuer or for the correctness of any of the statements or representations made or opinions expressed by the issuer and for discharge of liability by the issuer. RBI neither accepts any responsibility nor guarantee for the payment of any amount due to any investor in respect of the proposed NCDs.
MITCON Credentia Trusteeship Services Limited under Regulation 8 of the SEBI NCS Regulations has by its letter dated December 20, 2024 given its consent for its appointment as Debenture Trustee to this issue and for its name to be included in the Prospectus and in all the subsequent periodical communications sent to the holders of the debentures issued pursuant to this Issue.
PUBLIC ISSUE ACCOUNT BANK & SPONSOR BANK: AXIS BANK LIMITED SYNDICATE MEMBER: VIVRO FINANCIAL SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
(please scan this QR code to view the Prospectus)
Reg. Office: Plot No: C308, Door No: 66/40, 4th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai- 600 083, Tamil Nadu, India.
Corp. Office: ICL Fincorp Limited, Main Road, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur–680121, Kerala, India.
Branches: Kerala | Tamil Nadu | Andhra Pradesh | Telangana | Karnataka | Maharashtra | Odisha | Gujarat iclfincorp

Search on for trapped coal miners in Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Deep divers from the Navy on Tuesday joined the operations to rescue nine miners trapped in a water-filled coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district since Monday morning.

One person, Punish Nunisa, was arrested in connection with the incident.

The district administration said three bodies were seen from the ground. "The bodies are yet to be recovered. Dewatering has been stopped for the time being," the administration said in a statement.

"The Navy team is now spearheading the rescue efforts," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on X.

Assam's Special Director-General of Police, Harmeet Singh, told journalists that the Navy team came along with deep diving equipment. "There are tunnels inside the mine and more equipment will be required to go there," he said.

Efforts under way to rescue the trapped miners in Dima Hasao of Assam on Tuesday. PTI

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One dead in Bidadi plant accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

One of the four injured in the mishap at waste-to-energy plant is said to be 'critical'

Even before the waste-to-energy plant at Bidadi near here could be inaugurated, one person lost his life and four people suffered serious injuries after hot ash was suddenly released at the plant.

Umesh Kumar Singh, 29, a boiler assistant at the plant, succumbed, to his injuries on Tuesday morning, while the four injured are undergoing treatment.

The injured have been identified as Amlesh, 31, Santun, 31, Tarun, 29, and Lakhan, 28. Sources said one among the four is in a critical condition with 70% burns while the other three are stable.

The accident at the plant occurred on Sunday evening when a pipe carrying ash was reportedly blocked.

Minister's visit

"Reports indicate that the pipe carrying the ash was blocked and workers opened it without taking safety precautions, causing the sudden release of hot ash," Energy Minister K.J. George said on Tuesday after visiting the plant.

The plant has been set up under the public-private partnership (PPP) model by Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL).

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India realised the need to do more and created something new

By roping in experienced international coaches who have made tactical changes and brought in the European or Australian style of play, the Indians have improved and started to win medals in big tournaments: Zwicker

Ludwig and Zwicker... a special bond. R. RAGU

INTERVIEW

Martin Zwicker Moritz Ludwig

K. Keerthivasan

Germans Martin Zwicker and Moritz Ludwig share a great friendship despite their age difference. Midfielder Zwicker is 37 while defender Moritz is 23. Representing Tamil Nadu Dragons in the Hockey India League (HIL), their recent training sessions in Chennai were marked by jokes and banter as they narrated their experiences with the young Indian players.

As part of the men's team that won silver in the Paris Olympics and the 2023 FIH World Cup in Bhubaneswar, the two have huge admiration and respect for each other.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, the two spoke about, among other things, the Paris journey and their experience of playing in India.

What were your expectations when you signed up for Tamil Nadu Dragons in the HIL?

Zwicker: Not so many expectations, but that's because I haven't experienced the HIL before. I was really excited to be part of Dragons, especially after we met the whole group. It was really nice.

You have played in the German league before. What are the differences between that and the HIL?

Zwicker: I think it (German league) is kind of intense, especially about the techniques than the Indian style is. And I think it's (HIL) going to be sometimes a bit more of a rush, like a kick and rush thing. I'm looking forward to that but in the end, it's more like we need to bring our German experience to that. And maybe to control the game and I think that will be good for us. Both leagues are similar, I think, but I think the Indian league is a bit faster and more straightforward whereas German hockey is more tactical.

HIL is multi-cultural where players from different nationalities play. How does it help to have two players from the same nationality on the team?

Moritz: It's a big challenge to create a team with all the cultures and all the different styles. It helps when people know each other. We got chemistry. So if more guys share chemistry, I think it's easier to build a whole group.
Zwicker: It is great to have players from all nationalities in a league especially because we can talk about details and then you can bring it to the whole team. I think it's really helpful, especially when you know the head coach (Rein van Eijk) as well. We are on the same page, we're talking a lot. And you can talk to the other international players because they have experience as well. It's always helpful for the whole team. It's more like an exchange of a lot of facts that can help the whole team.

You spoke about Rein, the Tamil Nadu Dragons head coach. He was part of the team that won the Junior World Cup in 2023. How has it been working with him?

Zwicker: I see a lot of benefits because he coached me some years ago at my home club, Berliner HC. And it was easy to talk about things. It's good because I know him so well and he knows me so well as well. And we can talk about a lot of things and that can be helpful. He's an experienced coach now because he coached at an international level, especially with the youth. And we have a lot of young guys on our team.

Tell us about working with a senior pro like Zwicker. He's been a Champions Trophy winner, a double Olympian, and has extensive international experience (more than 300 matches)...

Moritz: I think it's a huge benefit that he's really experienced. I have learned a lot from him as he has seen nearly everything in hockey, so that's going to help us.

How do you see Moritz's growth so far and how do you see his future shaping up?

Zwicker: I think his future is bright, that's for sure. Over the last [few] years, he's become such a good player, especially at the highest level. Not every young player can do that. Over the last year or two, he's experienced a lot in international hockey. That's why he's here and that's why he's been so successful over the past two years. I think it can be helpful to give him some advice, but he knows it better, he has his own goals and reaches them. I think it's most important that he keeps his focus.

What do you think are Moritz's strengths?

Zwicker: I think he needs to learn to be a little calm. If you're a young guy, you're forced to try something. That's really good, but sometimes it can be helpful to be a little calm. He has a lot of strengths, especially in defence. Take a look at him, he's such a big guy. He can reach the ball from everywhere. That's really nice for a team like us. He has a lot of offensive skills as well. If you play against Moritz as a striker, it's not a fun game!

How disappointing was it to win silver in Paris, losing to The Netherlands in a shoot-out in the final?

Zwicker: Of course, it's disappointing as it's the biggest tournament, the biggest medal we can win. We've learnt our lesson. We hope to do better the next time and maybe beat Holland.

Tell us about beating India in the semifinal at the Paris Olympics. It was a tough match.

Zwicker: It was a really intense match. India played really great. We didn't in some stages of the game. In the end, I think it was a 50-50 game.
Moritz: We were sure that we were going to win a medal. It's always a tough situation when you play in a semifinal. In the end, [we had] a little bit more luck for us. But that's how the game is.

You've played more than a decade of international hockey. How have you seen the Indian team grow in the last 10 years?

Zwicker: They realised over the last 15 years, the need to do more. They realised the need to bring in some experienced coaches, maybe some international coaches. That's what they've done. They created something new, they trained, maybe, differently. This effort bore fruit. Now, it's more like they have improved so much that they can play really well and win medals in big tournaments.

You've played at the FIH World League against India. Any definite change you've seen in the team?

Zwicker: I think it's mostly the tactical things. You can see that especially when they brought some international coaches. That's what they are looking for. Some experienced international coaches to bring, maybe, a European style or an Australian style to the squad.

Germany won the World Cup in Bhubaneswar in 2023 after 15 years. How big was that for the country?

Zwicker: It was huge, really huge. The last time we won it was in 2006. It was nice that we won it in India. It was quite a relief, especially for a lot of guys like us who were searching for that kind of success.
Moritz: It couldn't have got any better for me. First tournament, first win. I think you can be more relaxed for the rest of your career. You know you've won something. No, I'm joking. It was really great. A big tournament, great conditions. Just great.

What are your thoughts about countrymate Gonzalo Peillat, who is also playing in the HIL?

Moritz: He's a great guy, a great drag-flicker. He's also really experienced. He's always been a team man, a huge advantage if he's in your team.
Zwicker: As Moritz said, he can do a lot on the pitch. The good thing about him is that he brings so much energy and effort to a whole squad. That's a really good thing for any team and that's what makes him so special. He's a nice drag flicker, but he's [also] a good person. He brings so much into a team, especially on the quality side and the social life. That's always helpful if you're new to a team.

When the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028 comes up, you will be 41. Germany won a bronze (2016 Rio Olympics) and silver (2024 Paris) most recently. Is there a sense of disappointment that you've come close twice but couldn't win gold?

Zwicker: No, that's not a big disappointment. When you think about it, it's more like, how many players have won an Olympic medal? I'll be 41 in LA, but that's so far away. I'm not thinking about that.

Looking back, winning the Champions Trophy in 2014 must have been a huge thing for you, right?

Zwicker: That was quite a big win because the Champions Trophy has a lot of tradition. It was quite a small relief because so many players had played the tournament earlier and didn't win it. We did it with a nice squad in the end, that was really nice.

The German hockey team is one of the strongest teams in the world. What are the reasons for that?

Zwicker: We like to play hockey. We have a different system than other countries. We always step up, especially in the big tournaments. We have a nice mindset and we put so much effort into our training. It's more like we are a hockey nation.

Despite being so young, you already have a lot of experience and have won the World Cup in 2023 and bagged silver in Junior World Cup in 2021, both in Bhubaneswar. How do feel about that?

Moritz: I hope I can make the next step in the German team, maybe become a leading person there and hopefully win some more tournaments, play good matches, and have fun.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SRINIVAS Hanumanth Rao Kulkarni, S/O: Hanumanth Rao Kulkarni, R/O: Flat No–802, 8th Floor, A – Block, Nagarjuna Premier Apt, J.P Nagar 6th Phase, 560078, Have changed my Name as Srinivas Hanumanth Kulkarni, Affidavit on 04/01/2025.

I, Poornima M W/O, Amruth Raj D M R/o #164, Ward No 26, Panduranga Temple Street, Chikballapur 562101 have changed my name to Poornima Amruth D for all purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIKRAM Kumar Palanisamy, S/o Palanisamy Nachimuthu, R/at No. 318, 1st A Main Road, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560070 have changed my minor daughter's name from Sai Saarah Vikram Kumar to Saarah Sai vide affidavit dated 06/01/2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru

I, Martza Akil Bhuri Mooch S/o Sakina Bhurimuch R/o Babji 52,bannerghatta Road, Hatimi Street,Gottigere Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to Murtaza Akilbhai Bhuri Much for all purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SIDDHARTH Akhil, S/o Akhil Balachandra, R/at No. 101/8, 11th Cross, 8th Main, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003, have changed my name from Siddharth Akhil to Sidharth Akhil vide affidavit dated 26/10/2024 sworn before Notary K. Mohan, Bengaluru.

I, VIKRAM Kumar Palanisamy, S/o Palanisamy Nachimuthu, R/at No. 318, 1st A Main Road, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560070, have changed my minor daughter's Name from Sai Saanvi Vikram Kumar to Saanvi Sai vide affidavit dated 06/01/2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru

I, KRITHIKA Sathyamurthy, W/o Vikram Kumar Palanisamy, R/at No.318, 1st A Main Road, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560070, have changed my name from Krithika Sathyamurthy to Kirthika Sathyamurthy vide affidavit dated 06/01/2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

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LEGAL NOTICE

XIX ADDITIONAL JUDGE IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL AT CHENNAI
OS No.943 of 2011
(CS No. 737 of 1997)

Mrs. Killiammal (Died) and others ---Plaintiffs
-Vs-
A.Natesan (Died) and others .... Defendants

To
S.Suresh, S/o.G.Sampath,
No.66, 11th , B' Cross, Prashanth Nagar, Bangaluru- 560 079.
----18th Defendant

Please take notice that the Plaintiffs have filed the aforesaid OS before the Hon'ble XIX Addl. Judge, City Civil Court, Chennai for declaration of title. In the above said matter the Hon'ble Court was pleased to order notice through paper publication returnable by 20.01.2025. Therefore, you are required to be present either in person or through your Counsel before the Hon'ble XIX Addl. Judge, City Civil Court, Chennai on 20.01.2025 at 10.30 a.m. failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.

M/s.R.MALAICHAMY
Counsel for Plaintiffs 14 to 17

INNOVATE KARNATAKA | GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA | K-tech

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Tender No.: ITBTST/2024-25/SE0024

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, Information Technology & Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka, invites Proposals for Empanelment of Public Relations Management Agency.

The interested agencies are required to download the electronic copy of the Request for Proposals and upload the proposal (in PDF format) on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in through the bidder's Digital Signature Centre (DSC).

Any notices/information related to this Request for Proposals in the future shall be available on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only.

The application period starts on **January 8, 2025** and ends on **January 22, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.** Please refer to the Request for Proposals document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire # 59 Railway Parallel Road,
Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram,Bengaluru – 560020
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail: kitsgok@karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/4191/AKAR/2024-25

Govt of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/Klb/Div/TS-3&4/TN/2024-25/5684 Dated: 06.01.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender of (KW-4) works under 4059 Judicial Buildings (1) work and 8443 Pragati Colony (8443 Deposit Contribution) (1) work Total (02) works of Indent No- 16863, & 17599 in KPPP portal. 2) Estimated Cost: **Estimate cost Min Rs. 158.55 Lakhs Max Rs. 200.00 Lakhs,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: PWD, Civil Contractor License Class-I and above for Civil works 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per KPPP portal EMD Min Rs Rs. 2.02 Lakhs and Max Rs. 2.52 Lakhs, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting: **15.01.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.** 6) Last date & Time for Last date for queries: **18.01.2025 at 17.30 Hrs**, 7) Last date for Submission of tender: **20.01.2025 at 16.00 Hrs.** 8) Date of Opening Technical Bid : **21.01.2025 at 16.30.00 Hrs**, 9) Date of Opening of Financial Bid : **23.01.2025 at 11.30.00 Hrs.** 10) Enquiries: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) Note: GST Will be Paid Separately 12) website : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, 13) Bidders Should Note That: Note: 1) Undersigned reseres the right to Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process, Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Rejection of tender will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/818/KSMC&A/2024-25

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS

State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602

No: DYES/ES/AP/201/2024-25 **Date: 03.01.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject:- The Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the Providing and fixing streetlights, construction of tennis court in Jayaprakash Narayan National Youth Training Centre & Supply and fixing of DG with platform, allied cabling works and other various works at Akkitimmanahalli Hockey Stadium, Bangalore District, Karnataka through E-Procurement portal

Work Details : 1) Providing and fixing streetlights, construction of tennis court in Jayaprakash Narayan National Youth Training Centre. Amount put to tender : **Rs 84.70 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs.1,27,045.00.** Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid: **16.01.2025 time 16.00 Hrs,** Last Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **17.01.2025 time 16.30 Hrs. 2)** Supply and fixing of DG with platform, allied cabling works and other various works at Akkitimmanahalli Hockey Stadium. Amount put to tender : **Rs 84.73 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs.1,27,096.00.** Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid: **15.01.2025 time 16.00 Hrs,** Last Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **16.01.2025 time 16.30 Hrs.**

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal. Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin)
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/4178/Zen/2024-25

Govt. of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, Sri Malai Mahadeswara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority,

Mahadeswara Hills, Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagara District.
Telephone No. : 08225-272124 Email : sec.mmtemple@gmail.com

No. SMMKDA/3/PR/26/2024-25 Part-2 Dated : 01-01-2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Secretary Sri Malai Mahadeswara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority, M.M. Hills invites E-tender for **LIGHTING OF ELECTRICITY FOR ANNUAL FAIRS, SPECIAL DAYS, GOVERNMENT HOLIDAYS AND OTHER VARIOUS EVENTS TO BE HELD IN SRI KSHETHRA ARE INCLUSIVE OF STATUTORY TAXES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR ONLY AT M.M. HILLS** subject to the following conditions in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public procurement rules 1999-2000 & as per standard tender documents for procurement of services. For further details please refer website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Sub title Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment (hrice), Malai Mahadeswara Temple Chamarajanagara Dt. Deputy Secretary Mobile No. 9902593369 & Case worker mobile No. 9449038414 (Mr. Nagaraju). The below mention E.M.D. amount should be pay through E-procurement.

Sl No	Details	Estimate Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	E.M.D. Amount (Rs. Lakhs)
01	THE SRI MALAI MAHADESWARASWAMY KSHETHRA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY INVITES TENDERS FOR THE PROVISION OF LIGHTING SERVICES FOR ANNUAL FAIRS, SPECIAL DAYS, GOVERNMENT HOLIDAYS, AND OTHER EVENTS TO BE HELD AT SRI KSHETHRA. THE TENDER SHOULD INCLUDE ALL EXPENSES FOR ELECTRICITY LIGHTING, INCLUSIVE OF STATUTORY TAXES, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.	90.00	2,25,000-00

The Details and Calendar of events are as follows :

1.	E-Tender Documents will be effective	02-01-2025	Afterwords
2.	Tender enquiry up to	14-01-2025	4.00 pm
3	Last Date & Time for Receipt of E-Tender	15-01-2025	4.00 pm
4.	Date & Time of Opening Tender	16-01-2025	5.00 pm

Sd/- Secretary, Sri Malai Mahadeswara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority, Mahadeswara Hills

DIPR : CHANAGAR:532:2024-25

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Notice No. 01/2025 Dated: 04.01.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of interest is invited from all the willing CGHS empanelled hospitals any empanelled railway hospital, situated in Varanasi Municipality Corporation area located under **National Capital Region (Delhi)** offering emergency & multi specialty services for railway beneficiaries of Banaras Locomotive works for 02 year on CGHS rate is Completed application forms may be dropped in the box in office of PCMO, BLW, Varanasi before15:00 hrs of 04.02.2025 Detail Terms and condition and application format is available on BLW website: **http:www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in**

PRO/BLW/MEDICAL-4 ACMS / ADMN.

/blwvaranasi "Website : http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

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DMA/WORK INDENT No.34546, 34547/2024-25/EE-3 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.01.2025

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E-PROCUREMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರೀಮಿಯಂ ಎಫ್.ಎ.ಆರ್ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿ.ನಂ.48 ಕಂಕನಾಡಿ ವೆಲೆನ್ಸಿಯಾ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಮಹಾವೀರ ಸರ್ಕಲ್ (ಪಂಪ್‌ವೆಲ್) ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಡಬದಿ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ DMA/2024-25/ WORK INDENT NO. 34546 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 199.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ DMA/2024-25/ WORK INDENT NO. 34547 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.199.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 21.01.2025 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

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DIPR / MNG /1138/ MPL / 24-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

O/O THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, RAMANAGARA

TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
NO: 28/EE/PRED/RMG/AE/2024-25/1313-1322 Date : 03-01-2025
(Only through E-PROCUREMENT system)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, invites the Itemwise Tender. Contractors registered in Govt enrolled in Licence for the works under different Head of Account, minimum tender amount Rs. 3.35/- Lakh, Maximum tender amount Rs. 163.68/- Lakh tender Last Date for submission of Tender Dated : 13-01-2025 by 4.00 PM, Opening of the Technical bid Tender Dated : 15-01-2025 at 4-30, Opening of the Financial bid Tender Dated : 17-01-2025 at 4.30 on wards. For details and further information visit the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Or contact this office in office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Ramanagara

BELAGAVI SMART CITY LIMITED
1st Floor, BUDA Office, Ashok Nagar, Belagavi -590016.
Phone: 0831-2461352, E-mail: bscltd16@gmail.com, website: www.bscl.in

Tender Ref. No: BSCL/Tender/2024-25/1120 **Date: 07/01/2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director Belagavi Smart City Limited Belagavi, bids are invited from eligible bidders through E-Procurement cum Request For Proposal (RFP) for the below mentioned projects. Further details may be downloaded from the e-procurement website of Government of Karnataka(https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Name of the Work: 1.Records, protection and preservation of important documents for Belagavi Smart City Works, Belagavi. (EOQ), 2.Invitation for expression of Interest for operate maintain and transfer of Modern Market at Tilakwadi(Kalamandir) for revenue generation in a Belagavi Smart City Abhivruddhi Society (BSCAS), 3.Preparation and submission or reports for E& S, ESIA, ESMP, RAP and WC & Q and obtaining environmental clearance from the competent authority for the CITIS 2.0 project, Belagavi City." (EOQ)

1) The date from which document can be downloaded is: 10/01/2025 to 27/01/2025 up to 5.00 PM, 2) Last Date for Submission of Bid 27/01/2025 Up to 5.30 PM, 3) Last Date to receive Technical Queries: 17/01/2025 Up to 4.00 PM, 4) Pre-Bid Meeting is on: 20/01/2025 @11:30AM at BSCL office, 5) Technical Bid Opening is on: 29/01/2025 At 11.00 AM., 6) Financial Bid Opening Date: 10-02-2025 @ 11.00 am.

Sd/-Deputy General Manager (Procurement)
Belagavi Smart City Limited

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1422/KSMCA/2024-25

DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE, KARNATAKA STATE
Office of the Chief Superintendent Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara, Electronic City Post, Bengaluru-560100.

No.CPB/TENDER/17580/2024-25 Date: 06.01.2025

SHORT TIME KPP Portal Notice (Call-2)

The purchases of Factory Machinery to be procured through Short Time KPP Portal (Call-2) as per the KTPP Act and Rules.

(1) Tender Indent No. : As per Kpp Portal. **Brief details of Tender :** The purchases of Factory Machinery. **EMD (Amount (₹) :** As per Kpp Portal. **Last Date for submission :** As per KPP Portal. Bidders can also take KPP Portal details from **website : kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or **Helpline +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777.**

Sd/-
Chief Superintendent
Central Prison, Bengaluru
Prisons and Correctional Services
Karnataka Stage

DIPR/CP/RO4165/AAPL/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, NR Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/2857/2024-25 **FORM-III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)** **Dated: 04.01.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The "public notice" advertisement of Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike No : **BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/2857/2024-25** dated **04.01.2025** published in these newspapers on **05.01.2025**, the amount mentioned in the "market value of the land per sq.m" column has been wrongly published due to technical reasons. The amended notice may be read as follows:

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for "widening of road from Kotthanur Road to Avalahalli, Bairathi, Bilishivale, Aaduru, Bidarahalli, Hirandahalli and Rampura Road" for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan-2015.

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District : Bangalore Urban **Name of the Taluk : Bangalore East** **Name of the Village : Avalahalli**

Sl No	Sy No/ Khatha No	Type of Land		Nature of Land			Dimension of the land / plot and extent in sq.m		Boundaries of the land /plot				Building Details			Present activity on Land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment individual house etc.,	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sqm*	Name and address of the owner of the plot/ land for which DRC is to be issued.
		Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted Undeveloped	Approved layout / developed land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extent in Sqm	Type of Construction and No. of Floors	Floor area Ratio			
1	Sy No. 21/2, Khatha No. 328/21/2	Vacant Land		Agriculture Land			76.50 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.21/2	Remaining Portion of Sy No.21/2	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.21/2	None	None	None	Vacant	14,826/-	Smt.Lakshmamma W/o Munichinnappa Residing at Avalahalli Village, Virgonagar Post, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk.

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices : Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition and TDR. 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/- Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BIDADI

Bidadi Main Road, Bidadi Town, Ramanagara Taluk & District - 562109
www.bidaditown.mrc.gov.in
Email : ltstaff_ulb_bidadi@yahoo.com tmcbidadi@gmail.com

No : TMC/Bidadi/Eng. S./Tender/C.R.-17/2024-25 Date : 02-01-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Chief officer Town Municipal Council, Bidadi invites **Item Rate** Tenders for TWO (02) works Total Estimated cost Rs.397.25 Lakhs and Minimum Cost Rs. 9.25 Lakhs and Maximum Cost Rs. 388 lakhs from the Class-III & above PWD Contractors can participate in this tender. For more information about the tender please refer **Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tender forms can be uploaded by dated:02.01.2025 and the Last date receipt of tender is on 18.01.2025 till 5:30 PM and tender will be Opened on the date:22.01.2025 at 11:00 AM for further details you can visit **www.bidaditown.mrc.gov.in** any changes in this notification will be notified only in KPPP Portal.

Sd/- CHIEF OFFICER **Sd/- PRESIDENT**
TMC, BIDADI **TMC, BIDADI**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: 903/SEE/Tr.(W&M)EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/CYS-60 Date: 07.01.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites tenders against **Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/EE/AEE-1/24-25/DCW/Arga/CALL-2** for Replacement of 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer (Transformer No.II) by 1X20MVA, 110/33kV Power Transformer at 110kV sub station, Arga in Karwar taluk, Uttar Kannada District for Project Seabird on DCW Basis on Partial Turn Key Basis.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **08.01.2025.**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Manual Tender)

No: 903/SEE/Tr.(W&M)EE(O)/AEE-4/MT-61/24-25/CYS-59 Date: 06.01.2025

KPTCL invites tenders against **Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(W&M)/2024-25/TLM HBL/CALL-4** for Providing Service of **01 No of Driver to Tempo Traveller of Hot Line Division, KPTCL Hubballi.**

1) Date and time of issue of blank tender applications: **08.01.2025 from 11:00 AM. onwards. 2)** Last date and time for receipt of tender applications: **22.01.2025 upto 5.00 PM. 3)** Last date and time for opening of tenders: **24.01.2025 at 11:30 AM.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Tr. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Vidyuthnagar, Hubballi-580 024.

ಮೈಸೂರು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಜೆ.ಎಲ್.ಬಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570005, ದೂರವಾಣಿ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821–2420624

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪ್ರಾ/ಅಅ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟಿಎನ್/09/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–01–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ರೂ.4.95 ರಿಂದ 775.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತದ ಒಟ್ಟು 03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 1 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.01.2025** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.01.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.01.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ರ** ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 02 ಮತ್ತು 3 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.01.2025** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.01.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.01.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ರ ನಂತರ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಅರ್ಹ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಸದರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡವನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0821–2420624** ರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.mudamysore.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಮೈಸೂರು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/MYS/RO1063/AAPL/2024-25

J BG-BGE

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

Positioning Andhra Pradesh as the Engine of India's Economic Growth

Foundation Stone Laying, Inauguration & Dedication to the Nation of
Energy, Railways, Roads, Pharmaceuticals & Industrial Infrastructure Projects

Worth over ₹ 2 Lakh Crore

by

Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Wednesday, 8th January, 2025 at 17:30 hrs | Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING

NTPC Green Energy Limited Green Hydrogen Hub, Pudimadaka
Positioning Andhra Pradesh as hub for green hydrogen ecosystem, driving sustainable industrial growth

South Coast Railway (SCoR) Headquarters
Enhanced railway infra with focused administration for Andhra Pradesh & neighbouring states

Doubling of railway lines – 3 Projects – Total 465 k.m.
Construction of railway lines – 3 Projects – Total 48 k.m.
Road Widening to 2-lane & 4-lane – 7 Projects – Total 294 k.m.
Construction of greenfield bypass – 3 Projects – Total 26 k.m.
Big boost to regional connectivity in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states

Development of Bulk Drug Park at Nakkapalli, Anakapalli
Providing affordable, high quality medicines and making India self-reliant in this sector

Krishnapatnam Industrial Area – KRIS City
Fostering regional economic growth through employment opportunities and infrastructure development

INAUGURATION

Road widening to 2-lane & 4-lane – 5 Projects – Total 210 k.m.
Construction of greenfield bypass – 2 Projects – Total 24 k.m.

DEDICATION TO THE NATION

Doubling of railway lines – 3 Projects – Total 323 k.m.

Stronger regional connectivity | **Driving socio-economic development** | **Creating employment for youth**

IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF

Shri S. Abdul Nazeer
Governor, Andhra Pradesh

Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu
Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

Shri K. Pawan Kalyan
Deputy Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari
Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda
Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare

Shri Manohar Lal
Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs

Shri Piyush Goyal
Union Minister of Commerce and Industry

Shri Pralhad Joshi
Union Minister of New & Renewable Energy, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology

Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu
Union Minister of Civil Aviation

Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani
Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications

Shri Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma
Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel

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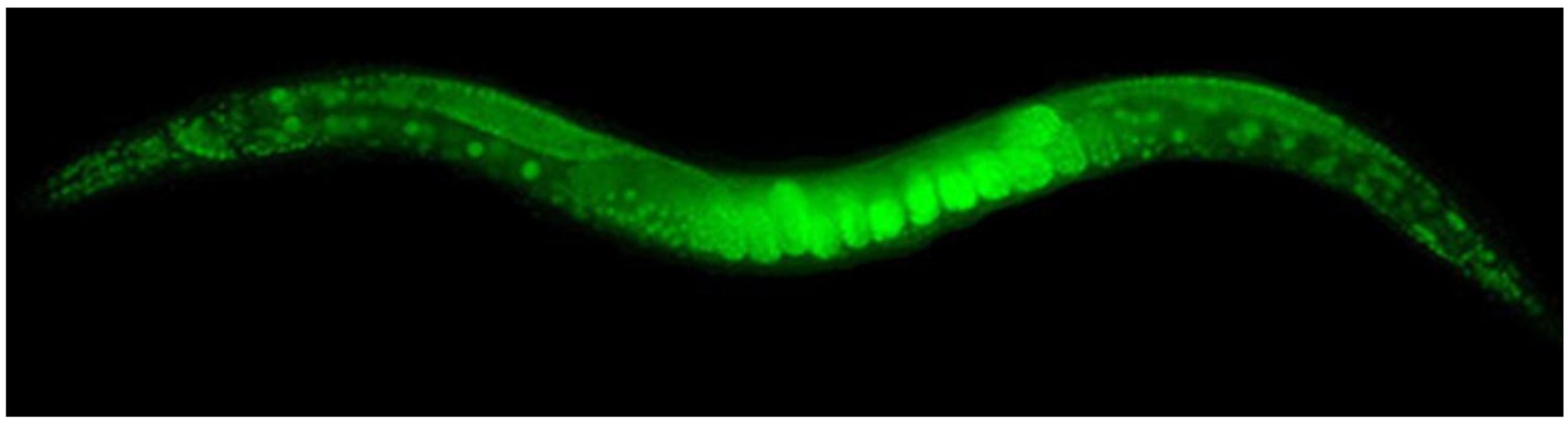


An adult *C. elegans* worm glows after a GFP coding sequence was inserted into it. DAN DICKINSON, GOLDSTEIN LAB, UNC CHAPEL HILL (CC BY-SA 3.0)

How curiosity-driven research into a worm won four Nobels

Advances in health often arise from solving fundamental biological problems. One difficulty is identifying the right place where the answer can be found. *Caenorhabditis elegans* provides such a setting: a versatile model whose results often reveal general principles with parallels in humans

Rohini Karandikar
Sandhya P. Koushika

Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering microRNAs and their role in controlling gene expression. This pioneering discovery was made using the roundworm *Caenorhabditis elegans*. This 1-mm long, slender, and transparent nematode has been the star of many pathbreaking discoveries in biology, four of which have won Nobel Prizes.

How did *C. elegans*, a tiny invertebrate, become such a crucial tool for biological research? What insights did this worm yield? What is the value of such research for society when one can argue that our focus should be on studying human biology?

Advances necessary for human health and welfare often arise from solving fundamental biological problems. One major difficulty isn't just finding the right question to ask but also finding the right place to ask it where it can be solved. *C. elegans* provides exactly such a setting: a relatively simple yet versatile model for biological investigations whose results often reveal general principles that remain valid or have parallels in other organisms, including humans.

The worm's story also highlights how breakthroughs can arise from research driven by curiosity.

Humble beginnings

In 1963, biologist Sydney Brenner wrote to his peer Max Perutz his thoughts on research in the fields of development and neurobiology. He believed that as the nature of problems in these areas wasn't clearly defined, there was a gap in identifying the right experimental approach that would lead to "defining [the] unitary steps of any given process."

Brenner suggested the use of genetic analysis in defining these steps in both animal development and the nervous system. He chose the nematode *C. elegans* for its simplicity and because it has several organ systems akin to those found in humans, allowing a chance to identify principles in development.

In 1963, Brenner requested another scientist, Ellsworth Dougherty, for a culture of *C. elegans* and sought his guidance on its growth conditions. This culture of sharing resources and unpublished information continues to this day.

Cell death

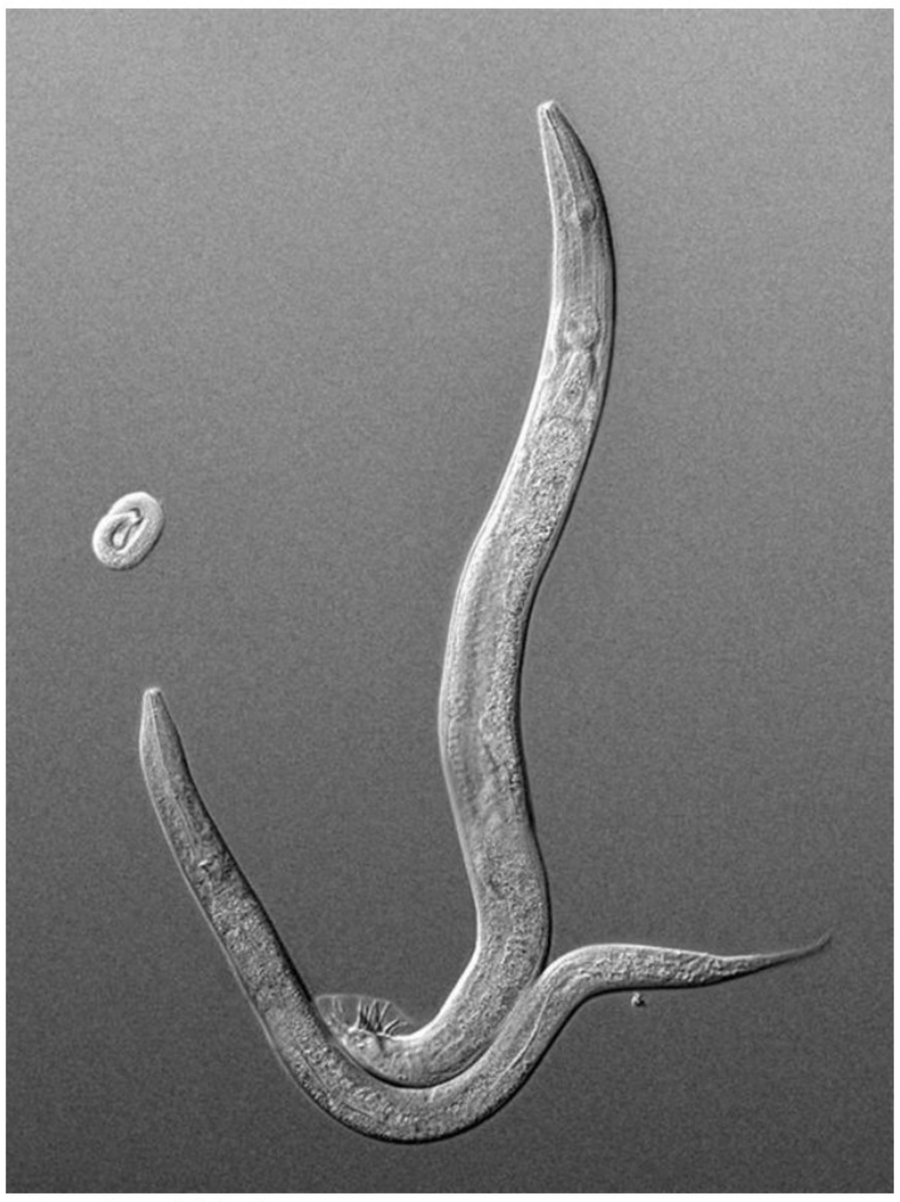
Brenner shared the 2002 Nobel Prize for medicine with H. Robert Horvitz and John Sulston "for their discoveries concerning genetic regulation of organ development and programmed cell death." In his award ceremony, Brenner said, "Without a doubt, the fourth winner of the Nobel Prize this year is *Caenorhabditis elegans*: it deserves all of the honour, but, of course, it will not be able to share the monetary award."

Brenner established *C. elegans* as a genetic model and demonstrated that genes in the worm could be mutated, resulting in observable changes in development and behaviour.

In 1976, Sulston elucidated the cell lineage of *C. elegans*, which is the developmental history of all cells of this nematode. He tracked cell divisions from the fertilised single cell to the final 959 cells in the adult organism. This was possible because of the worm's transparency but nonetheless was a daunting task.

Sulston showed that precisely 131 of the 1,090 cells born died during development and that cell death was genetically controlled. He described the steps involved in programmed cell death, where healthy cells killed themselves.

Horvitz identified the genes essential for cell death and the genes that prevented it. He found that the process of cell death arose from interactions among key genes and followed a specific molecular pathway.



An image of *Caenorhabditis elegans* worms. MEGHA RAI/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

His team's work in *C. elegans* showed that many genes involved in cell death also have counterparts in humans. Thus, research in *C. elegans* was particularly important in advancing understanding of the role of programmed cell death in human development, e.g., of fingers, the nervous system, and in some cancers.

Ageing and genome sequencing

Work in *C. elegans* also revealed insights into the pathways that regulate ageing. The early work of Michael Klass, Tom Johnson, and Cynthia Kenyon in the 1980s and 1990s identified some of the genes leading to longer lifespans than seen in normal worms. Further work in this direction led to the appreciation of the role of insulin signalling pathways in ageing. This has led to *C. elegans* being used as a key model for discovering the molecular mechanisms of ageing and as a test bed for drugs that might influence this process.

The genomic information of any organism is invaluable in linking the observable characteristics to a particular gene. Sequencing the *C. elegans* genome started in 1990 and was an exemplar for the larger Human Genome Project. The whole genome sequence of *C. elegans* was carried out by a consortium working together across continents. It was led by Robert Waterston at the Genome Sequencing Center at Washington University, U.S., and Richard Durbin at the Sanger Centre in the U.K.

The technology and the software tools developed to sequence the *C. elegans* genome led the way in achieving the scale and efficiency critical to sequencing larger genomes.

It was debated if human whole-genome sequencing data should be publicly available, as private sequencing efforts wished to patent some of the genes. The open sharing of *C. elegans* data and community feedback provided a model for the public human genome sequencing effort.

Gene silencing

A geneticist's dream is to control gene expression, which is the ability to turn genes "on" or "off" in a controlled manner. Andrew Fire and Craig Mello discovered using *C. elegans* that providing double-stranded RNA could lead to destruction of a much larger amount of the corresponding cellular RNA, suggesting double-stranded RNA was a catalyst for RNA interference. For their work, Fire and Mello jointly received the 2006 Nobel Prize for medicine.

The discovery of RNA interference led to technologies for a highly specific approach to gene-silencing that work in all known organisms. They also have applications in therapeutics for cancer and some inherited gene disorders.

Glowing worms

A dream of biologists is to track biological processes and gene products in living cells. The green fluorescent protein (GFP) revolutionised our ability to do this. How this came about is another success story of curiosity-driven research.

Osamu Shimomura was trying to understand why jellyfish are fluorescent. In the 1960s, he identified bioluminescent proteins like GFP from the jellyfish *Aequorea victoria*. In 1994, Chalfie was able to introduce GFP into live *C. elegans*. The transparency of the organism meant he could see green glowing cells when the organism was illuminated by blue light.

GFP was soon widely used in many organisms and has transformed biological research. Together with Roger Tsien's success in making fluorescent proteins of multiple colours, scientists today can follow multiple processes and proteins simultaneously in a variety of organisms.

Shimomura, Chalfie, and Tsien received the 2008 Nobel Prize in chemistry for developing GFP.

The microRNA prize

The discovery of microRNAs (miRNA) challenged the central dogma, which said RNAs were mere conduits of information that flowed from DNA to proteins.

miRNAs are molecules that turn off gene expression. This fundamental advance, which won Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun a Nobel Prize in 2024, is another example of an unexpected finding arising from curiosity

miRNAs are a class of molecules that turn off gene expression at the right time and place. This fundamental advance, which won Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun a Nobel Prize in 2024, is another example of an unexpected finding arising from curiosity. The duo discovered in *C. elegans* that miRNAs could bind corresponding cellular RNAs to reduce protein expression.

It is established that gene regulation by miRNAs is an essential process during development and for organisms to have normal physiological processes. There is increasing recognition of the value of miRNAs in diagnostics and therapeutics as well.

A prize for neuronal circuits

C. elegans has just 302 neurones, yet exhibits complex behaviour. Thus it offers a promising model to study a nervous system simple enough to analyse while still yielding valuable lessons about general principles.

Naturally, a useful step is to build a layout of all its neurones. Brenner began such a reconstruction of the *C. elegans* nervous system in the 1970s. It was a formidable challenge, never attempted before. John White, Brenner's PhD student, set up a computer system for neuron reconstructions from electron micrographs. He stayed on after his PhD to reconstruct the *C. elegans* connectome, a map of all neuronal connections.

This was well before sophisticated tools were available and was the first such effort for any organism. The connectome immediately opened the door to questions about how neural circuits function. For example, in the 1980s, Chalfie used laser-based neurone-killing experiments to determine the circuit for the escape response to touch.

Holding promise

We can ask questions about the relationship between the genetics of neural circuits and behaviour. The answers, when we can find them in specific contexts, are difficult to obtain, extremely complex, and yet vital for our understanding.

Cornelia Bargmann won the 2013 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for her research on the olfactory system of *C. elegans*. The sense of smell is very important for many organisms. *C. elegans* has a large number of olfactory receptors and uses complex machinery to sense smells and respond, adapt, and learn.

Bargmann took on this complex problem and unearthed remarkable insights in all these aspects through elegant experiments. She identified smell neurones in *C. elegans*. Her lab also showed that despite there being a fixed template for sensing attractive and repulsive cues, individual genetic variation and an ability to integrate environmental cues allowed the olfactory circuit to be very flexible as well.

Many of these findings also hold true in organisms like mice, with promise for understanding the human brain.

(Rohini Karandikar is a science communicator, educator, and facilitator. Sandhya P. Koushika is a cellular neurobiologist who works with C. elegans *at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. rohinikarandikar84@gmail.com, sandhyakoushika@gmail.com)*

Lava erupting over the Mount Etna volcano in Sicily in July 2024. AFP

The latest science on climate change

Agence France Presse

After another record-breaking year for global temperatures in 2024, pressure is rising on policymakers to step up efforts to curb climate change. The last global scientific consensus on the phenomenon was released in 2021, but scientists say evidence shows the effects of global warming are unfolding faster than expected.

Here is some of the latest climate research.

The world may already have hit 1.5 degrees C of warming above the average pre-industrial temperature – a critical but also arbitrary threshold beyond which it is at risk of irreversible and extreme climate change, scientists say.

A group of researchers made the suggestion in a study released in November based on an analysis of 2,000 years of atmospheric gases trapped in Antarctic ice cores.

Scientists have typically measured today's temperatures against a baseline temperature average for 1850-1900. By that measure, the world is now nearly 1.3 C warmer.

But the new data suggests a longer pre-industrial baseline, based on temperature data spanning the year 13 to 1700, which put warming at 1.49 C in 2023, the study published in Nature Geoscience said.

The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), which transports warm water from the tropics to the North Atlantic, has helped to keep European winters milder for centuries. Research in 2018 showed AMOC has weakened by about 15% since 1950, while research published in 2024 in the journal Science Advances suggested it could be closer to a critical slowdown than previously thought.

Globally, forests appear to be struggling. A July 2024 study found that forests overall failed in the year before to absorb as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as in the past

In addition, with the world in the throes of a fourth and the largest mass coral bleaching event, scientists fear the world's reefs have passed a point of no return.

Ocean warming is causing storms to intensify faster, with some leapfrogging strength categories in just hours.

Likewise, global warming is drying waterways and sapping moisture from forests, creating conditions for bigger and hotter wildfires. Research published in October in *Nature Climate Change* calculated that about 13% of deaths associated with toxic wildfire smoke during the 2010s could be attributed to the climate effect on wildfires.

The Amazon in 2024 was in the grip of its worst, most widespread drought since records began in 1950. River levels sank to all-time lows while fires ravaged the rainforest. That added concern to findings last year that 10-47% of the Amazon will face combined stresses of heat and drought by 2050.

That could push the Amazon past a tipping point, with the jungle no longer able to produce enough moisture to quench its own trees, at which point the ecosystem could transition to degraded forests or sandy savannas.

Globally, forests appear to be struggling. A July 2024 study found that forests overall failed to absorb the year before as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as in the past.

Scientists fear climate change could even boost volcanic eruptions. In Iceland, volcanoes appear to be responding to rapid glacier retreat. As ice melts, less pressure is exerted on the earth's crust and mantle.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Woman, her two children killed in road accident in Tumakuru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A woman and her two children were killed on the spot when their motorcycle crashed in to a moving tractor near Obalapura gate on Koratagere in Tumakuru early on Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Mumtaz, 38, Mohammed Sahil, 16, and Mohammed Asif, 12. Sahil was riding the bike and he failed to notice the tractor in the fog and crashed around 6.30 a.m. The deceased are residents of Giddenahalli. The bike struck the back of the tractor after the accident. Sahil was wearing a helmet but did not have a driving license.

BBMP workers clearing illegal sheds at Hosakerehalli in Bengaluru on Tuesday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Illegal sheds on storm-water drain removed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To address urban flooding, the BBMP on Tuesday cleared illegal sheds built on a storm-water drain in Survey No. 90, Hosakerehalli village, Uttarahalli hobli. The encroachments, in Chamundi Slum in the Basavanagudi Assembly Constituency, were removed under the supervision of the BBMP's South Zone authorities, a release stated.

"The operation was conducted as per a government directive to remove obstructions from stormwater drains. BBMP engineers, officials from the Revenue Department, and police personnel were present to ensure the clearance adhered to legal protocol," BBMP stated in the release.

A BBMP official stated that the illegal structures on the storm-water drain were a major contributor to Bengaluru's flooding issues.

Visvesvaraya Technological University

(State University of Government of Karnataka Established as per the VTU Act, 1994)
Jnana Sangama', Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State

Phone:(0831) 2405468 Fax:(0831)2405467

Ref.No.VTU/PS/2024-25/126 Date: 02.01.2025

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Twenty-Fourth Annual Convocation (Part-II) to award Post Graduate and Research Degrees of VTU – reg.

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It is hereby informed that the **Twenty-fourth Annual Convocation (Part-II) to award Post Graduate and Research Degrees of VTU, is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 8th February 2025, at 11-00 a.m., in the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium, "Jnana Sangama" Campus of VTU, Belagavi**. The awardees of the above degree are hereby cordially invited to attend the Convocation.

In this Convocation Ceremony, the Degrees will be awarded only to the Gold Medalists and Rank Holders of 2023-2024 batch of Post Graduate Programmes and to the candidates eligible for the award of Ph.D. Degree.

All candidates are required to note the following:

The candidates shall :

* Be present in the Auditorium with neat white dress as mentioned in the University Website
* Occupy the seats in the Auditorium at least half an hour earlier to the commencement of Convocation Ceremony
* Candidates are advised not to attend the Convocation Ceremony if symptoms of fever / cold / cough
* Standup when the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Chancellor and other dignitaries enters the hall and remain so until they occupy the chairs
* Maintain silence and discipline throughout the Ceremony
* Switch off mobile phone in the premises
* Not to leave their position till the dignitaries leaves the hall after the Ceremony is over
* Follow the instructions issued by the Registrar(Evaluation) regarding Registration and other protocols of Convocation

Other candidates, who wish to collect the Degree Certificates personally, can collect the same from the Office of the Registrar (Evaluation) the next working day, on **Monday, 10th February 2025**, during the office hours on producing valid identity card issued by the college. The certificates of the rest of the candidates will be sent to the concerned colleges after the Convocation.

By order
(**Dr. B. E. Rangaswamy**)
Registrar

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THE HINDU Margazhi Music Contest

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Microsoft's projected investment in AI, cloud expansion in India

3 In $ billion. Microsoft will invest $3 billion (about ₹25,700 crore) to expand its cloud computing and artificial intelligence capabilities in India, its chief executive officer Satya Nadella said on Tuesday. The tech giant will also train 10 million people in AI skills in India by 2030, Mr. Nadella said. PTI

The number of people reportedly executed in Iran in 2024

901 More than 900 people were reportedly executed in Iran last year, including around 40 in a single week in December, the UN rights chief said. The Islamic Republic executes more people per year than any other nation except China, for which no figures are available. AFP

India's estimated economic growth rate in 2024-25

6.4 In per cent. India's economic growth rate is estimated to slip to a low of 6.4% in 2024-25, mainly on account of a poor show by the manufacturing and services sector. The first advance estimates of national income for 2024-25 is lower than the 6.6% projected by the RBI. PTI

Number of product launches expected at the Auto Expo

40 More than 40 new product launches are expected at the upcoming Auto Expo which will be held under the umbrella of Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 from January 17 to 22. It is organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry by joining hands with sectoral industry bodies. PTI

The total office space absorption in the year 2024

719 In lakh square feet. Demand for office space across eight major cities was at an all-time high last year, beating the previous high in 2019, according to Knight Frank. In 2020 and 2021, office space demand had plunged. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why is there a drop in school enrolments?

What does the data from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus reports tell us about student dropouts and school reduction? Why has the Ministry of Education said that 2022-23, 2023-24 UDISE+ report data is not strictly comparable with the years before it?

EXPLAINER

Maitri Porecha

The story so far:

The total enrolment of students in schools across India studying from grade 1-12, dropped by over a crore in 2023-24 as compared to 2018-19. After a gap of two years, the Ministry of Education (MoE) released the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) for 2022-23, 2023-24 on December 30, 2024.

What do the figures say?

Since 2012-13, when the MoE started maintaining UDISE+ data, it was believed that the total number of students studying in India were 26.3 crore. Till November 22, 2022 when the 2021-22 data was released, the number hovered around 26 crore, until last month, when the 2022-23 data reflected enrolment at 25.18 crore, which has further fallen to 24.8 crore in 2023-24 (a drop of 6% or 1.22 crore students) as compared to earlier years.

How did such a drop happen?

MoE officials in the UDISE+ reports have given a disclaimer that the UDISE+ reports of 2022-23 and 2023-24 are not strictly comparable to previous years reports because of a change in the 'methodology,' of data collection. However, former professor and HOD, Department of Educational Management Information System at Delhi-based NIEPA, Arun Mehta, said that the UDISE+ reports are silent on the sharp dip in total enrolment of students, and the dip in government schools. "The reports do not explain the reasons behind the dip. Only change in methodology of data collection is not reason enough," said Prof. Mehta, who has worked on UDISE reports for 15 years.

What is the change in methodology?

While the MoE claims that the exercise of individual data collection from each student, which includes their Aadhaar number, was implemented from 2022-23, Prof. Mehta said that a similar exercise was initiated in 2016-17 and went on for a year. "We had anticipated even back then that there was no way of verifying data that was sent by schools regarding the number of students studying in their facilities, and so for one year NIEPA had attempted to collect individual student data with consent from the MoE. However, over subsequent years this exercise was discontinued and restarted only in 2022-23."

Low numbers: Students go for school during a cold morning in Srinagar in November 2024. IMRAN NISSAR

Prof. Mehta explains that the enrolment decline since 2022-23 can be attributed to the elimination of duplicate enrolments (of students changing schools, but their records being maintained at two or more places), inflated enrolment figures and so on. "The new data collection system suggests that previous enrolment figures were overestimated by 5-6%. So what happened to these students who no longer reflect in UDISE data? Were they previously included for funding or incentive purpose like scholarships, free meals, text books and cash benefits? If so much how much funding was allocated to these students and was it effectively utilised?," he asks.

For instance, in 2022-23, ₹32,515 crore (actual) was incurred under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, during the time when enrolment dropped (the latest figure reveals). In the current financial year of 2024-25, the allocation under the scheme is higher at ₹37,010 crore.

How comparable is UDISE+ data of last years with 2022-23, 2023-24 data?

While the MoE cautions that UDISE 2022-23 and 2023-24 data is not comparable with previous years, upon reviewing the UDISE+ 2022-23 report, Prof. Mehta noted that efficiency indicators like dropout, transition, and retention rates of students were computed depending on UDISE+ 2021-22 data. "Despite differences in data collection methodology, indicators, rates, and ratios remain comparable as this reflects the situation at a specific point of time, regardless of the methodology used," he says. Even after revamped data collection methods were put in place, there has been a decline in the enrolment of students between 2022-23 and 2023-24 by 37 lakh. "The UDISE+ report is silent on this steep decline, nor is there an explanation for declining number of schools covered under UDISE+; whether this decline of schools is due to merging or closing down of schools is not clear," Prof. Mehta says. There is also a stark decrease in the number of schools covered under UDISE+. There was a drop in the number of schools covered – from 15, 58, 903 (2017-18) to 14,71,891 (2023-24), a decline of 87,012 schools. Most of these schools are government-run, with 76,883 lesser schools recorded in the latest 2023-24 data. "MoE must furnish reasons for the decline of schools. Was this due to the shutting down and merger of schools? and while shutting down schools, were the Right to Education norms of having one primary school within a kilometre followed?," Prof. Mehta said.

Which States are the most affected?

Jammu and Kashmir experienced the most decline in total schools, with a decline of 4,509 schools, while in Assam 4,229 schools reduced, and in Uttar Pradesh 2,967. Other affected States are Madhya Pradesh (2,170) and Maharashtra (1,368). "With the shutting down of schools, parents seek re-admission of their children to another nearby school. It is not an automatic transfer. Students drop out during this process, where parents are not comfortable seeking re-admission because of longer distances," said Prof. Mehta.

THE GIST

- MoE officials in the UDISE+ reports have given a disclaimer that the UDISE+ reports of 2022-23 and 2023-24 are not strictly comparable to previous years reports because of a change in the 'methodology,' of data collection.
- Till November 22, 2022 when the 2021-22 data was released, the number hovered around 26 crore, until last month, when the 2022-23 data reflected enrolment at 25.18 crore, which has further fallen to 24.8 crore in 2023-24.
- There is also a stark decrease in the number of schools covered under UDISE+. There was a drop in the number of schools covered — from 15, 58, 903 (2017-18) to 14,71,891 (2023-24), a decline of 87,012 schools.

Why the location of China's earthquake matters

What is a terrane? Was China's construction of the world's largest hydroelectric-power dam near the area where the 7.1 quake happened? What is the significance of the location?

The Hindu Bureau

The story so far:

At 6:35 am IST on January 7, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.1 struck Tibetan China and Nepal. The epicentre was located 10 km below a spot around 80 km north of Mt Everest. As of 7 pm, Chinese state media had reported 95 people dead, 130 injured, and hundreds of houses flattened on its side of the border. Updates on damage and casualties from other areas, including Nepal, are awaited. There have also been reports of the tremors being felt as far away as Kathmandu, Thimphu, and Kolkata.

Where did the quake occur?

According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre, the point on the surface below which the epicentre lay was located in Tingry county in the Shigatse region of Tibet. This region lies 4-5 km above sea level on average and is home to some eight lakh people; the county itself is home to around 7,000 people.

The region's capital city is the seat of the important Panchen Lama of Tibetan Buddhism and thus bears considerable spiritual significance. The Dalai Lama issued a statement in which he said: "I offer my prayers for those who have lost their lives and extend my wishes for a swift recovery to all who have been injured." Tingry county is also a 'gateway' to Mt Everest and the surrounding terrain, which is a popular tourist destination. Local authorities have said however that the number of tourists is lower in winter. According to *Xinhua*, China has already closed tourists' access to the region since the earthquake struck.

Does the quake's location matter?

According to preliminary assessments, the quake's mainshock may have emerged in the Lhasa terrane. A terrane is a specific fragment of the crust.

The Lhasa terrane includes sites involved in China's construction of the world's largest hydroelectric-power dam. The Chinese government approved the project last month. Once completed, the project will straddle the Yarlung Tsangpo River and generate around 300 billion kWh per year.

The project has elicited expressions of concerns from India since the river subsequently flows into Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, where it becomes the Brahmaputra.

Experts have said the dam could affect the river's perennial status.

Second, the wider Himalayan region is considered to be the planet's 'third pole' for the amount of water it holds in its rivers, glaciers, and lakes and the effects their natural cycles have on the millions of people who depend on this water. Earthquakes have been known to force rivers to change course and to destabilise glaciers and lakes and increase the risk of flooding.

Third, the cause of the quake is also related to the significance of its location.

What caused the quake?

The tale of how the Himalayan mountains were created is well-known. Around 50 million years ago, the Indian plate collided with the Eurasian plate, causing rocks to fold and rise to create the mountains.

The tension between the two plates has continued to build as the Indian plate is still pushing in at around 60 mm/year. Earthquakes and tremors occur when the rock formations in the region shift ever so slightly as they adjust to the tension.

Since 1950, geologists have recorded more than 21 earthquakes of magnitude 6 or higher in the Lhasa terrane alone. The strongest of these occurred near Mainling in 2017 with a magnitude of 6.9, according to *Reuters*. Mainling is 960 km east of Tingry county.

To understand where the next quake might occur in the region and how powerful it might be, geologists need to understand the ancient plate collision in great detail, estimate how much tension is accumulating in different parts today, and how much of it has been released in past events.

THE GIST

- According to preliminary assessments, the quake's mainshock may have emerged in the Lhasa terrane. A terrane is a specific fragment of the crust.
- The Lhasa terrane includes sites involved in China's construction of the world's largest hydroelectric-power dam. The Chinese government approved the project last month. Once completed, the project will straddle the Yarlung Tsangpo River and generate around 300 billion kWh per year.
- The tension between the two plates has continued to build as the Indian plate is still pushing in at around 60 mm/year.

Frame guidelines to tackle pledging of stolen ornaments with gold finance firms: HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pointing out that the court is witnessing innumerable cases related to pledging of stolen gold ornaments with gold finance companies, the High Court of Karnataka has asked the authorities, including the State Law Commission, to formulate guidelines/rules to regulate process of pledging of gold, particularly to tackle the issue of pledging of stolen gold.

The guidelines should also contain norms to ascertain gold's ownership, identity of the person pledging the gold, implication of pledging stolen gold, manner of dealing with such gold when criminal proceedings are initiated, etc., the court said.

Criminal case

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued the directions while disposing of a petition filed by Muthoot Finance Ltd., which had sought directions to the police not to seize the gold, which was pledged with it, in relation to a criminal case in which the police claimed the stolen gold was pledged with the company.

While directing the petitioner company to co-operate with the investigation, the court directed it to make available all details relating to the pledged gold and also its inspection by the investigating officer.

The court also said that the police can take the pledged gold if it is treated as stolen. However, the police cannot retain the gold in their possession and must deposit it with the jurisdictional trial court. If the trial court has to pass any order for the release of gold for any reason, then it has to hear the petitioner company before doing so, the High Court said.

The true owner

"The true owner of the gold cannot be deprived of the use of the gold merely because the same is pledged with a gold finance company after being stolen from such true owner. The gold finance company is vested with a duty to carry out proper due diligence before accepting the gold as a pledge for a loan disbursed," the High Court observed.

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Borewell, reverse osmosis units' 'scam': ED raids BBMP head office

Officials collect documents pertaining to the drilling of 9,588 borewells and installing 976 RO facilities in five BBMP zones

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths raided the head office of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Tuesday in connection with a probe over the alleged borewell and reverse osmosis (RO) scam. The officials collected documents pertaining to the drilling of 9,588 borewells and installing 976 ROs in five BBMP zones.

In 2019, former BJP councillor N.R. Ramesh had filed a complaint with the then Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the case was transferred to the ED. In 2022, the ED had summoned Mr. Ramesh and recorded his statements.

Files being taken in for inspection at BBMP Engineer-in-Chief B.S. Prahallad's office, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The allegation is that in 2016, ₹970 crore was released to drill borewells and set up RO units. The BBMP reportedly drilled borewells and installed RO units between 2016 and 2019. The palike released the money to drill 9,588 borewells and 976 RO units in five zones. The borewell and RO facilities were provided at 66 wards in Bommanahalli, Dasarahalli, Mahadevapura, R.R. Nagar and Yelahanka.

Only 20% of work done

Mr. Ramesh in his complaint had alleged that the BBMP claimed that in it has so far drilled 8,422 borewells and 697 RO units. He told *The Hindu* that in reality, the BBMP has executed merely 20% of the work and the contractors raised fake bills for the rest.

"The officials and contractors swindled more than ₹400 crore of public money. In the 66 wards, we did a reality check and shot videos to expose the corruption involving BBMP officials and contractors," he added.

A source in the BBMP said the ED officials verified documents at BBMP Engineer-in-Chief B.S. Prahallad's office. "The officials from different zones are cooperating with the investigation. The raid may continue for three days as the volume of files is large. The ED has also sought documents from zonal offices," the source added.

Man found dead in lodge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A businessman allegedly ended his life due to harassment from his business partner at a lodge in Hulimavu on Monday.

The deceased, Kalol Dutta, 48, had a catering business in partnership with A.J. Mariswamy, and was suppling food to hospital canteens since 2018.

The duo had agreed to share the profit, but during the Coronavirus pandemic, their business was hit and they incurred a huge loss. Mariswamy allegedly started harassing Dutta, forcing him to bear the loss. The latter took a loan and sold gold valuables to repay the amount, but Mariswamy allegedly continued to harass him.

In her complaint Sajini Dutta, the wife of the deceased, said Mariswamy used to harass her husband to hand over the hospital canteen business to him and abuse him verbally on the phone daily.

Unable to bear this, Kalol checked into a lodge in Hulimavu and ended his life. The police have registered a case charging Mariswamy under section 108 (abetment to suicide).

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph. No. 108 for help.)

ASHAs launch indefinite strike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Demanding a fixed honorarium of ₹15,000, hundreds of ASHA workers started an indefinite State-level day and night strike on Tuesday at Freedom Park in the city.

Members of the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta ASHA Karyakartheyara Sangha affiliated to the All-India United Trade Union Centre have been demanding the fixed honorarium combining the State and Central incentives together. Their other demands include an additional payment of ₹2,000 for urban ASHAs, disbursement of pending dues, and retirement benefits of ₹5 lakhs as in West Bengal.

Accredited Social Health Activists and members of Karnataka Rajya Samyukta Aasha Karyakarteyara Sangha, staging a protest at Freedom Park, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

"If ASHAs cannot work due to serious illness, the government should pay their incentives for three months," said D. Nagalakshmi, State Secretary of the Sangha.

State Health Director Triveni and Deputy Director (ASHA programme) Prabhu Dev Gowda visited the protest venue and received the memorandum.

BJP member booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ashok Nagar police have registered a case of rape and criminal intimidation against a BJP member following a complaint filed by a private firm employee accusing him of rape in his flat on the pretext of offering her financial help in October 2024.

The victim, 26, in her plaint, said that she was introduced to the accused – Somashekhar – through a common friend. She said her marriage had been arranged last year and she needed money for it. She sought Somashekhar's help and he assured that he would give her ₹6 lakh.

In October, the accused took her to his flat from her PG accommodation, forced her to drink liquor and raped her, she alleged. She also alleged that he threatened her with dire consequences and fearing this, she did not inform anyone immediately. Later, she told her friends and relatives before approaching the police.

Somashekhar had contested from Sakleshpura Assembly constituency on BJP ticket in 2018. The accused is absconding.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.Naveen Kumar.N S/o Sri.Nagarajappa** to bring the notice of the general public that Original registered absolute sale deed bearing doc No.LAG-1-00443/2016-17 of Book-I, date. 18.05.2016, registered in the office of the sub-registrar Laggere, executed by **Sri.M.Devaraju s/o Sri.Munigangappa** Rep by his GPA Holder **Sri.Narasimhaiah in favour of Sri.Mahesh.N S/o Sri.Narasimhaiah,** is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing **Site No.63,** assessment No.132, situated at **Laggere Vilage, Yeshawanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** Now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, Measuring East to west 40 feet and North to South 22 feet, in all measuring **880 Sq.ft.,** along with R.C.C house thereon and bounded on : **East by : Road, West by : Site No.68 Presently Others Property, North by : Vacant Land Presently Others Property, South by : Site No.73 Presently Others Property.**

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005. Phone No.044-28415003, 28511972
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1	Description	Selection of EPC contractor / system integrator for setting up 600kWp / 500KWac ground mounted solar PV project inside the premises at TAMIN Graphite beneficiation plant, Sivaganga.
2	Tender No. & Date Tender ID	769/IR1/2024, Dated.07.01.2025 2025_TNMIN_517115_1
3	Bid submission End date	10.02.2025 upto 1400 hrs.
4	Technical bid opening date	12.02.2025 at 1600 hrs.
5	Tender form fee & EMD	Rs.1,000/- (Rupees one thousand only) -Non refundable Rs.2,50,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh and fifty thousand only) - Refundable

Note: Further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal **http://tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/088/TENDER/2025 **GENERAL MANAGER (Finance)**

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अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–RDD/SD/KHUNTI/05/2024-25
2nd Call
PR. No.- 342172(Rural Development)22-23(D)

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र०सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	खूँटी जिलान्तर्गत तोरपा प्रखण्ड के जिलिंगबुरू में स्थानीय नाला पर पुल निर्माण।	3,26,17,600/–	6,52,500/–	10,000/–	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 09.01.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय–दिनांक 10.01.2025 से दिनांक 17.01.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, खूँटी
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –18.01.2025 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 6201188328 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR 343732 (Rural Development) 24-25 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी।

Government of Karnataka
KANNADA BOOK AUTHORITY
Kannada Bhavan, 1st Floor, J.C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002
Ph: 080-22107704, 22484516. Web Site :https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in
E-Mail : kannadappradhikara@gmail.com

No.Kpp/59/ppt/2024-25 Date: 07.01.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Kannada Book Authority is inviting Short Term E-Tender for "Kannada book Printing through e-procurement portal. Approximate value of tender: **Rs.58,00,000-00** (Rupees Fifty eight lakshs). Short Term E-Tenders may be uploaded from **08.01.2025** to **23.01.2025,** Short Term Tender documents and other details are available in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact: The Administrative Officer, Kannada Book Authority, Kannada Bhavana, 1st Floor, J.C. Road, Bangalore 560002. Phone No. **080-22484516/22107704** and **https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Administrator,
Kannada Book Authority

DIPR/CP/4189/SSC/2024-25

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Regional Office East
86, Spencer Tower, M G Road,
Bengaluru-560001, Ph.No. 080-25310112,
E-mail : blrroeastrec@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

'We, **Canara Bank,** had issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Since the notice has not been acknowledged and returned due to non-availability of addressees at the said addresses / due to evading of service of the notices sent by RPAD, notice could not be served. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixture at the addresses given. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor :Borrower: (1) Smt P Sujana W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, Flat No.402, Sai Platinum Apartments, ITPL Main Road, Opposite Kundanahally Colony, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru-560037. **Having Unit at: (a) M/s. Sri Sai Syndicate1570,** E Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahally, Bengaluru-560037, **(b) M/s. Shravya Enterprises,** No.1526, 1st Main, E Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahally, Bengaluru-560037. **(2) Smt Psindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subba Reddy, No.138, Phasee 2, 4th Cross, Classic Orchards Layout, BG Road, Bengaluru-560076. **Having Unit at : (a) M/s. Pavithra Enterprises,** flat No.007, Srinivasa Varna, No.40/168/1, Kudlu Village, Kudlu, Bangalore-560068. **(3) Smt. P Sujana** W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, flat No.402, Sai Platinum Apartments, ITPL Main Road, Opposite Kundanahally Colony, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru-560037. **(4) Smt. P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subbareddy, No.138, Phasee 2, 4th Cross, Classic Orchards Layout, BG Road, Bengaluru-560076. **(5) Sri. Vijay Kumar V,** No.104, Sai platinum ITPL Main Road, Opposite Kundanahally colony, Bangalore-560037. **(6) Sri. P Sivakumar Reddy** S/o P V Krishna Reddy, flat No.402, Sai Platinum Kundalahally, Opp ITPL Main Road, Bengaluru-560037. **(7) Sri. Subba Reddy P V,** No.138, Phase 2, 4th Cross, Classic Orchards Layout, BG Road, Bengaluru-560037. **(8) M/s. Padmavathy Builders And Developers, Represented by Its 4 Partners: (1) Smt. P Sujana** W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, **(2) P Sivakumar Reddy** S/o P V Krishnareddy, **(3) Subba Reddy P V** S/o P V Krishna Reddy And **(4) P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subba Reddy, #1526, E Block, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahally, Bengaluru-560037.

Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the borrower:

Sl. No	Loan Number/Product/ Customer Name	Date of Sanction	NPA Date	Sanction Amount	EOP Balance	Rate Of Interest
1	04637740000079 Syndnivas New Construction P SUJANA	04-01-2011	31-03-2022	69,00,000/-	47,16,382.95	9% Plus 2% Penal Interest
2	164000752755 Canara Home Loan Plus P SUJANA	28-06-2021	31-03-2022	5,00,000/-	4,00,154.47	11.05% Plus 2% Penal Interest
3	04631400000260 SOD Synd MSE PAVITHRA ENTERPRISES	30-06-2021	31-03-2022	60,00,000/-	48,20,293.89	11.10% Plus 2% Penal Interest
4	04639160000251 Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line Gecl1.0 PAVITHRA ENTERPRISES	24-06-2020	31-03-2022	12,00,000/-	9,53,997.66	9.25% Plus 2% Penal Interest
5	04631250001102 Corporate OD SRI SAI SYNDICATE	29-12-2021	31-03-2022	25,00,000/-	27,93,872.68	11.15% Plus 2% Penal Interest
6	04387830000067 Home Loan Plus P SUJANA	31-10-2014	31-03-2022	24,50,000/-	16,89,610.85	12% Plus 2% Penal Interest
7	0410746000006 Mortgage SHRAVYA ENTERPRISES	25-06-2021	31-03-2022	50,00,000/-	49,78,769.00	11.85% Plus 2% Penal Interest
8	0410757000011 FITL SHRAVYA ENTERPRISES	25-06-2021	31-03-2022	11,16,406/-	41,580.84	11.85% Plus 2% Penal Interest
9	173000017650 Over Draft PADMAVATHY BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS	31-03-2021	29-11-2024	3,00,00,000/-	1,16,33,712.62	12.30% Plus 2% Penal Interest

Total Liability Amount: Rs.3,20,28,374.96 (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Lakh Twenty Eighty Thousands Three Hundred Seventy Four And Paisa Ninety Six Only) **Demand Notice Dated : 31.12.2024**

Details of security assets:

Name of Title Holder : (1) M/s. Sri Sai Syndicate, (2) M/s. Shravya Enterprises, (3) M/s. Pavithra Enterprises, (4) Padmavathy Builders And Developers.
Sl.No.1: Movable: Hypothecation of stocks and Book Debts
Name of Title Holder : (1) Smt. P Sujana W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, **(2) Smt. P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subba Reddy
Sl.No.2: Immovable: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site No.524, present BBMP Khatha No.516/524, Second Block , the Aircraft employees cooperative society Limited (AECS) formed in Sy. No.115/1,116 to 121, 122/1,2,124/1,3,125 and 131/3 of Kundalahalli Village and Sy No. 39 to 43 of Chinnappanahalli, Sy. No. 8 and 73 of Tubarahalli Village, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru measuring East to West 60" and North to South 40" and bounded on the: East by: Property bearing site No.529, West by: Road, North by: Property bearing site No.525, South by: Property bearing site No.523.

2. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : Borrower: (1) Siva Kumar Reddy S/o P V Krishna Reddy, Flat No 402 Sai Platinum, Kundalahally Opp ITPL Main Road, Bengaluru-560037. **Having Unit at: (a) M/s. Shree Padmavathi Cements,** No.524, B Block, AECS Layout, Kundanahalli, Bengaluru-560037. **(b) M/s. Vineeth Enterprises,** 1526, First Main, E Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahally, Bengaluru- 560037. **(2) Sri. Subba Reddy P V,** No.138, Phase 2, 4th Cross, Classic Orchards Layout, BG Road, Bengaluru-560037. **Having unit at: (a) M/s. Sindhura Constructions,** Flat No 007, Door No.40/168/1, Srinivasa Varna Kudlu Village, Madivala Post, Bangalore-560 068. **(3) Smt. P Sujana** W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, flat No.402, Sai Platinum Apartments, ITPL Main Road, Opposite Kundanahally Colony, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru-560037. **(4) Smt. P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subbareddy, No.138, Phasee 2, 4th Cross, Classic Orchards Layout, BG Road, Bengaluru-560076. **(5) Sri. Sreekanth P Reddy,** H.No.556, Ground Floor, 8th Main, 8th Cross, Coffee Board Layout, Hebbal Kempapura, Bangalore 560085. **(6) M/s. Padmavathy Builders And Developers, Represented by Its 4 Partners: (1) Smt. P Sujana** W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, **(2) P Sivakumar Reddy** S/o P V Krishnareddy, **(3) Subba Reddy P V** S/o P V Krishna Reddy And **(4) P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subba Reddy, #1526, E Block, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahally, Bengaluru-560037.

Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the borrower:

Sl. No	Loan Number/Product/ Customer Name	Date of Sanction	NPA Date	Sanction Amount	EOP Balance	Rate Of Interest
1	173000017650 OD PADMAVATHY BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS	31-03-2021	29–11–2024	3,00,00,000/-	1,16,33,712.62	12.30% PLUS 2% Penal Interest
2	4637740000149 1774-OSL-SYNDNIVAS NEW CONSTRUCTION-BR P SIVAKUMAR REDDY	07-10-2011	31–03–2022	70,00,000/-	60,84,431.49	9% PLUS 2% Penal Interest
3	164000753478 629-CANARA HOME LOAN PLUS P SIVAKUMAR REDDY	28-06-2021	31–03–2022	5,00,000/-	4,89,325.18	11.05% PLUS 2% Penal Interest
4	4631250001584 1125-Corporate OD other t SHREE PADMAVATHI CEMENTS	31-01-2022	31–03–2022	25,00,000/-	21,23,005.16	11.15% PLUS 2% Penal Interest
5	4631400000738 1140-SOD SyndMSE SINDHURA CONSTRUCTIONS	29-12-2021	31–03–2022	60,00,000/-	47,21,615.95	9.15% PLUS 2% Penal Interest
6	4639160000288 1916-Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line GECL1.0 SINDHURA CONSTRUCTIONS	29-06-2020	31–03–2022	12,00,000/-	4,12,676.95	9.25% PLUS 2% Penal Interest
7	4631400000780 1140-SOD SyndMSE VINEETH ENTERPRISES	23-10-2020	31–03–2022	60,00,000/-	83,91,398.71	11.15% PLUS 2% Penal Interest
8	4639160000321 1916-Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line GECL1.0 VINEETH ENTERPRISES	29-06-2020	31–03–2022	12,00,000/-	11,39,066.23	9.25% PLUS 2% Penal Interest
9	04387830000078 Synd Mortgage SIVA KUMAR REDDY	05-11-2024	31–03–2022	24,00,000/-	8,63,082.66	12.00% PLUS 2% Penal Interest

Total Liability Amount: Rs.3,58,58,314.95 (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Eight Lakh Fifty Eight Thousands Three Hundred Fourteen And Paisa Ninety Five Only) **Demand Notice Dated : 31.12.2024**

Details of security assets:

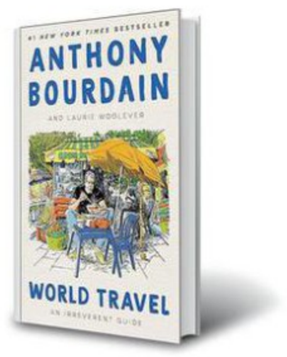
Name of Title Holder : (1) M/s. Padmavathy Builders And Developers, (2) M/s. Shree Padmavathi Cements, (3) M/s. Sindhura Constructions, (4) M/s. Vineeth Enterprises.
Sl.No.1: Movable: Hypothecation of stocks and Book Debts
Name of Title Holder : (1) Sri.P Sivakumar Reddy S/o P V Krishna Reddy, **(2) Sri. Subba Reddy P V** S/o P V Krishna Reddy.
Sl.No.2: Immovable: All that piece and parcel of the property on site No.343, Khatha No.0315/343, Thubarahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, BEML Employee's Co-operative society Layout, Bangalore formed in Sy. Nos. 9, 10/1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13/1, 2, 14/1, 2, 3, 15/1, 16/1P, 17/1, 2, 18/1, 2, 3, 19, 21/1, 2, 22/2, 23/1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 25, 26/1A, 26/1B2, 1B3, 1B4, 2B, 2C, 2D measuring East to West 60" and North to South 40" and bounded on the: East by: Site No.354, West by: Road, North by: Site No.344, South by: Site No.342.

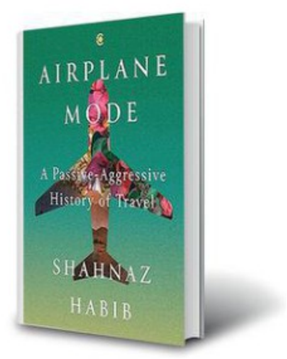
You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank,** within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower / Guarantors / Mortgager including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 07.01.2025
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Myriad hues: Front view of an open shop in the spice bazaar, in Istanbul, Turkey. GETTY IMAGES

Curious, intrepid, confused, lonely: seeing travel through many layers

Some new and old travelogues prove to be genre-benders as they take on the whole gamut of the leisure industry, complete with guide books, on what it takes to 'do' a country and why a raindrop on a leaf in Mongolia could move one to tears or have another throw a hissy fit

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

One of the most striking things about Shahnaz Habib's *Airplane Mode* (Westland) was its subtitle, "A Passive-Aggressive History of Travel." Was, because now the copies online sport different subtitles. There is "An Irreverent History of Travel", which brings to mind Anthony Bourdain's *World Travel: An Irreverent Guide* (more on the rockstar chef later), and 'Travels in the Ruins of Tourism'.

Much in Habib's stream of consciousness style, one wonders at the subtitle change. Was passive-aggressive too esoteric or too belligerent? Was 'irreverent' more accessible or SEO friendly, and 'ruins of tourism' suitably grim for all the mournful Malleshs and Mollies of the internet?

Habib's book, like all gripping, glorious books, is simultaneously intensely personal and interstellar. There are her travels including landing in Istanbul, diffident and lonely, made even more so by Megan who she meets in Hagia Sophia, which was a museum in 2007. Megan, a young white backpacker, who wanted to 'do' Turkey in a week, has already 'done' Topkapi Palace, the Grand Bazaar, and the boat ride across the Bosphorus in the two days she has been in Istanbul.

Megan's industry makes Habib feel even more inadequate as she wanders about the bazaars. "I want to be curious and intrepid; instead I am confused and lonely," she writes.

Through her personal travels, Habib looks at the history of travel, of 'militourism', where soldiers go to pretty paradises including Goa to let off steam, and the effect of colonialism, Euro-centric ideals and capitalism on travel.

Wrong-coloured passport

Habib's decision to go to Paris with her husband before the birth of their child, has her delving into the history of passports and 'passportism', and how the wrong coloured passport is as much a deterrent to travel as the wrong skin colour. So while her husband, a white American, needed nothing for his visa application to Paris, Habib needed a host of documents, that Indians travelling are unfortunately familiar with including a letter from her employer, bank statements, letter of invitation and an application fee of 60 Euros.

The Paris trip also has Habib revealing the Marshall Plan to prop up Paris, brought to its knees post World War II, by selling Paris to middleclass Americans. The recipe of "infrastructure and advertising" has succeeded from the 1950s till date – what is *Emily in Paris* but another hard sell of the City of Lights, a title, which Habib wryly comments was hard won by the French government who kept the Notre Dame and Place de la Concorde lit up despite post-War electricity shortages.

While in Istanbul, Habib's muses about guide books from the venerable Baedeker Guides published from the 1830s to the Lonely Planet books, which started off as counter-cultural keys to unlocking the secrets of a space and morphed into the behemoth it is now.

The irony of Baedeker dying of overwork while writing books on leisure travel is not lost on Habib.

Top-down view

Guide books take the top-down view of travel, telling what you need to see to understand or in Megan's word, 'do' a country. There is a snobbery attached to carrying guide books, which Habib highlights with an example from E. M. Forster's *A Room with a View*. If Eleanor had not taken away Lucy's Baedeker, Habib muses, might she not have had an adventure that did not end in marriage?

While one might not want to be caught dead with a guide book, (if you are that kind of cool traveller), what about one written by the ultimate cool traveller, Anthony Bourdain, who Habib hastens to admit she is far from.

Bourdain, chef, television host and writer extraordinaire has travelled the world and eaten everything. The book, put together by his long-time assistant, Laurie Woolever, is a look at the world "through Tony's eyes" in Woolever's words. Guide books and guided tours tell you what to see and not see and also how to feel and negate the subjective to a certain extent. Then you have personal views of the world, where a raindrop on a leaf in Mongolia could move one to tears or have another throw a hissy fit.

Travelling through books

Habib writes of her father who prefers to travel through books, which brings to mind the decision to visit Uzbekistan after reading of Emperor Babur's homesickness for pomegranates from Ferghana in *Raiders from the North* by Alex Rutherford. Istanbul also brings to mind Agatha Christie who is supposed to have written *Murder on the Orient Express* at Pera Palace, a claim debunked as urban legend in Charles King's remarkably thrilling history, *Midnight at the Pera Palace: The Birth of Modern Istanbul*.

Rather than Christie's novels set in Baghdad, Mesopotamia or Egypt, or her charming account of accompanying her archaeologist husband on digs in Iraq and Syria in *Come, Tell Me How You Live*, Habib chooses *Absent in the Spring*, a non crime book by Christie writing as Mary Westmacott to talk of the queen of crime's attitude towards the Other. Habib's thoughts on the invisible Indians serving in hotels far away from home are fascinating – I.S. Johar played the manager on *The Karnak* in the 1978 version of *Death on the Nile* and there was also Gaurau (Raza Jaffrey) as Carrie's personal butler in *Sex and the City 2*.

Travel cannot be isolated, the traveller and the travellee come together, giving and taking from each other just like Habib draws a line from Charles Baudelaire's posh Flâneur to the Malayalam equivalent of 'vayanokkal.'

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The curtains just came down on the 2025 Golden Globe Awards. A quiz on the awards

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
This film about a Mexican drug lord who changes gender won the highest number of nominations this year. What is it called?

QUESTION 2
This TV series is set amid the emerging threat of civil war in Japan in 1600. The writer of the book, on which the series was based, was a young officer in the Royal Artillery, who ended up in Changi, the infamous Japanese prisoner of war camp in Singapore. Name the series that brought home all the four awards it was nominated for in the television category this year and also the novelist.

QUESTION 3
Pia Zadora was named the new star of the year in 1982. The decision affected the awards' reputation. What was the controversy about the film for which she won the award?

QUESTION 4
This actor refused his Golden Globe award and later, the Academy Award in the 1970s to protest "imperialism and racism" of the U.S. Name him and the cult film for which he was nominated.

QUESTION 5
Payal Kapadia lost her Best Director Award this time to Brady Corbet. Which film did he win the award for?

QUESTION 6
This actor holds the highest number of nominations at the Golden Globe awards and the highest number of awards in the acting category. Who is she?

Visual question:
Name the three people in this photo at the 1979 awards ceremony.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The cartoons that led to the attack on Charlie Hebdo first appeared here. **Ans: *Jyllands-Posten*, a Danish daily.**
2. Name the 1939 cartoon by David Low and the two figures in it. **Ans: Rendezvous; Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin**
3. Name the *New Yorker* cartoon that came under fire over its depiction of Barack Obama and Michelle Obama. **Ans: The Politics of Fear**
4. Name the cartoonist and the cartoon which appeared in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* in 1754. **Ans: Benjamin Franklin; Join or Die.**
5. Name the *Washington Post* cartoonist who quit last week. **Ans: Ann Telnaes**
Visual: These are this Indian author's cartoons. **Ans: O. V. Vijayan**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Dodo Jayaditya| Sonali Das| Piyali Tuli| Sumana Dutta

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"You look tired. Why don't you pull up a chair and plunk yourself down?"

"PI... What?"

"Plunk. p..l..u..n..k. The 'u' in 'plunk' is pronounced like the 'u' in words like 'cut'. 'but' and 'nut'. It is also spelled 'Plonk'."

"Plunk! Sounds like 'slunk' and 'flunk'. What does it mean by the way?"

"When you plunk yourself down, it means you 'sit or fall down hard! For example, I can say, Siddharth plunked down on Sekhar's lap. During the storm, the tree plunked down on the house."

"Is it OK to say, when I get angry at school, I plunk down my books?"

"That's what many people do with their books even when they're not angry!"

"That's true. You see..."

"...Why don't you sit down and have some of this ice cream?"

"I think I will. Wow... This stuff tastes great. It's SUperb.'

"It's not SUperb. but suPERB. The stress is on the second syllable. Tendulkar hit a suPERB cover drive."

"Edberg hit a suPERB backhand. How's that?"

"Excellent."

"I cotton on to things pretty quickly, don't I?"

"What do you mean?"

"Well, I understand things pretty quickly. So when you 'cotton on' to something, you understand it yourself. Other people shouldn't help you, correct?"

"Correct. Here is an example. Finally, Mohan cottoned on to the fact that Malathy was a better cook than him. In American English, 'cotton to something' means 'to take a liking to something.' Even at the meeting, he cottoned to her.

"By the way. what's the meaning of 'plethora'?"

"It is a formal word meaning 'over-abundance'. There is a plethora of sycophants in the party. The 'e' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'set'. The 'o' and the 'a' are pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. The stress is on the first syllable. The word does not have a plural."

Published in The Hindu on August 23, 1994.

Word of the day

Beleaguer:
annoy persistently; surround so as to force to give up

Synonyms: badger, bug, pester, tease, besiege, circumvent, hem in, surround

Usage: *As the number of protesters grew, the policemen became increasingly beleaguered.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/beleaguerpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bɪˈliːgə/, /bəˈliːgə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Women not adequately represented in managerial roles

Opportunities Desk

The second edition of 'Mind the Gender Gap' indicates that women holding key managerial roles are faced with significant gender disparity and pay gap.

Brought out by CFA Institute, a global association of investment professionals, in partnership with CFA Society India, the report incorporates insights from 300 Indian companies through their Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) disclosures.

The BRSR framework mandates that Indian companies report on a variety of topics, including gender related issues such as the composition of the labour force, pay, turnover rates and other factors, split by gender. This report analysed a sample of voluntary BRSR disclosures to provide a follow-up perspective on how Indian women are faring in the corporate workplace, says a press release.

Out of a total workforce sampled, 80.1% are men, with women representing less than 20%.

Women hold a significantly smaller share of senior positions. This disparity is evident in Board of Directors (BoDs) roles. Women directors constitute only 18.4% of the board director positions. The gap is even wider among Key Managerial Personnel (KMPs), where just over 10% are women and nearly two-thirds of the companies analysed have no female KMPs, and among those that do, 80% have only a single female KMP. Female Board Members and KMPs receive significantly lower compensation compared with their male counterparts. Information Technology sector employs the highest percentage of women (34%), followed by consumer discretionary and financial sector.

GENERAL

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EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No: CMRL/HR/CON/01/2025 dated 08-01-2025.

CMRL invites applications from qualified & experienced women personnel for appointment of under mentioned posts on contract basis: -

Name of the Post	No. of Post	Consolidated Pay (Per Month)	Min Exp. (Yrs.)	Max Age (Yrs.)
AM (Civil)	8	Rs.62,000/-	2	30

Note:

i. The detailed employment notification will be published in CMRL website vide URL: https://chennaimetrorail.org. on or before **10-01-2025.**
ii. Salary is negotiable for deserving candidates
iii. Last date for receipt of application is **10-02-2025.**

DIPR/10/Display/2025

Chief General Manager (HR & Legal)

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02.	General Manager - Plantation	1	GT
03.	AGM - Security Services (On Contract Basis)	1	GT
04.	Senior Manager - IT (Full Stack) (On Contract Basis)	1	GT
05.	Senior Manager - IT (Business Intelligence) (On Contract Basis)	1	GT
06.	Senior Manager - IT (Industry 4.0) (On Contract Basis)	1	GT

For details relating to age, qualification, experience, etc, please visit TNPL's website: **www.tnpl.com/careers. Bio-data format is available in our website.**

Candidates who conform to the job requirements as given in the website may apply in the prescribed format by post in strict confidence superscribing the name of the post (both in Bio-data and top of the Envelope) **within 15 days** from the date of release of this advertisement to the below mentioned address, giving full details of age, qualification with year of passing, experience, community, salary drawn and position being held along with copies of testimonials towards proof for the same. ***Bio-data form with insufficient documentary proof will be summarily rejected.***

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No.: 5213-NITK-NTR/Admin.-Estt./2025/B1 Date: 07th January, 2025

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION FOR NON-TEACHING POSITIONS

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For more details regarding the Application, Educational Qualifications, Experience, Other Requirements, and Terms & Conditions for the positions, please visit the Institute website :- **www.nitk.ac.in**

Sd/-
Registrar
NITK, Surathkal

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Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India

Ref. No. UCSL/IMS/HR/VN/F/11-AGM/DM/2024/30 Dated 02.01.2025

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Sl. No	Name of Posts	No. of Posts
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04	Deputy Manager (Hull)	01 Post
05	Deputy Manager (Machinery Outfit)	01 Post

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IGSTC
INDO-GERMAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

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G F, Block -II Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016, India

Vacancy Advertisement: 02/2024
Position: DIRECTOR

The Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) is an autonomous registered society established in 2010 under an inter-governmental MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Germany. The mandate of the bi-national Centre is to promote research partnership of industrial relevance.

IGSTC invites applications for the position of Director as per the details given below:

Tenure of Appointment: The appointment will be purely temporary and contractual/on deputation for a term of three years, with the possibility of performance-based renewal of additional three years.

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Essential Qualification:

- Ph.D. in Science/Engineering or master's degree in engineering with 15 years of post-qualification experience in academic or industrial research and research management.
- Candidate should have an accomplished Scientific and/ technological experience as well as Science/ Research management background.

Desirable experience: Candidate with experience in Technology development/Industrial experience.

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Compensation Package:

- Annual Compensation package would be in the range of between 45 to 55 lakhs per annum depending upon qualification, experience and other credentials and corresponding to the position of Scientist "G" or Scientist "H" or equivalent prevailing in Scientific Ministries/Departments/ Research Institutions in India.
- If a candidate is from a private sector or from Industry suitable compensation in the range of 45 to 55 lakhs per annum would be applicable.
- For exceptional candidates in the above cases (Government/ Private sector), Governing Body may decide on an additional compensation package.
- **Duty Location:** Delhi/NCR, India. The position requires travelling in India and Germany.

Application procedure: Interested persons should send their applications to admin.igstc@igstc.org with:

- a detailed CV as prescribed in the website of IGSTC.
- a statement of vision for the organization and your role as Director of IGSTC. (max 2 pages)

Printed Application with supporting documents should be forwarded through proper channel to Chief Administrative Officer, Indo-German Science & Techology Centre (IGSTC) on or before **28 February 2025.**

Please visit www.igstc.org for detailed advertisement

WANTED

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BG-BGE

'By the age of 5, every child would have been exposed to HMPV'

Doctors say this virus is responsible for approximately 3% of respiratory infections, with estimates suggesting that it causes 10-12% of respiratory illnesses in children

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Allaying concerns over the spread of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) following the detection of two cases in Bengaluru, doctors on Tuesday said the virus is commonly detected in children under the age of five, and by this age, most individuals would have had at least one HMPV infection.

While the virus shares transmission characteristics with COVID-19, such as spread through respiratory droplets, it is generally less severe. In India, HMPV is responsible for approximately 3% of respiratory infections, with estimates suggesting that it causes 10-12% of respiratory illnesses in children.

Chikkanarasa Reddy, professor of paediatrics at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), said the virus has been in circulation for over 20 years.

"It is part of a respiratory viral panel test, which detects other pathogens for respiratory infections. It is known to contribute around 5% to 10% of all respiratory infections in the country," he said.

Just like other respiratory viruses, HMPV spreads from person to person and from surfaces to people. PTI

Stating that it is a common and self-limiting virus, Dr. Reddy said that usually during winter, cases of seasonal influenza and respiratory ailments are on the rise. "People need to be aware and there is no cause for alarm," he said.

China angle

Rajath Athreya, Lead Neonatologist and Senior Consultant Paediatrician at Rainbow Children's Hospital, Sarjapur Road, said HMPV is not new and paediatricians see seasonal surges almost every year. "This virus has always been in circulation especially in cooler months of the year. It is so common that by the age of five, every child would have been exposed to it. The China angle has given it more attention this year," he said.

Pointing out that it spreads from person to person and from surfaces to people like other respiratory viruses, Dr. Athreya, who was part of the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), said HMPV primarily causes respiratory symptoms similar to influenza, including fever, cough, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath. In severe cases, especially among young children and the elderly, it can lead to pneumonia.

"Very rarely is the illness severe, especially in infants, requiring hospitalisation and oxygen. If it leads to pneumonia, the infants may need respiratory support and admission to ICU. This scenario is extremely rare," Dr. Athreya said.

Sunil Kumar K., Lead Consultant - Interventional Pulmonology at Aster CMI Hospital, said co-circulation of HMPV with other respiratory pathogens, including influenza and Mycoplasma pneumonia, as reported in China, can complicate clinical outcomes and pose additional challenges to public health systems. However, it is generally less severe.

Preventive strategies

All the doctors said preventive strategies such as maintaining good hand hygiene, wearing masks in crowded places, and practicing respiratory etiquette, such as covering coughs and sneezes are advisable.

"It is also advisable to avoid close contact with individuals exhibiting respiratory symptoms. Given the absence of a vaccine, these measures are crucial in controlling the spread of the virus," they added.

Health Department issues HMPV advisory

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Health Department on Tuesday issued an advisory on HMPV after a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Reiterating that HMPV is a common and self-limiting virus, Ansar Ahmed, State Project Director (IDSP), said testing for HMPV is not necessary unlike COVID-19. "People are advised not to spend money on testing HMPV unnecessarily. We have apprised the Chief Minister about the virus and its existence since 2001. However, the Health Department will take up continuous surveillance and spread awareness," he said.

Meanwhile, five cases of HMPV were detected in children and treated in Shivamogga since August last year. While one case each was detected on August 14, September 28 and November 4, two cases were detected on September 12. All the five have recovered and been discharged, officials said.

Tunnel road DPR estimates ₹65 crore for tree-cutting, artwork, landscaping

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The executive summary of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the tunnel road project between Hebbal and Silk Board has estimated a whopping ₹65 crore for cutting of trees, translocation, planting, artwork, a construction depot and landscaping. The total estimated cost of the project stands at ₹14,981 crore.

A senior BBMP official said the DPR was prepared by the Rodic Consultants Pvt. Ltd. and the same was being analysed. The project report has proposed artwork, beautification, and planting inside the 18-km tunnel road. The DPR has however not mentioned how many trees would be affected, the nature of artwork, details about landscaping and other plans. The private agency prepared this DPR in three months.

Doubts raised

Dattatreya T. Devare, Trustee, Bengaluru Environment Trust, told *The Hindu*, "Not just the trees, there are serious doubts about the overall project cost estimation. For any agency to prepare a DPR for a project like this, it will take at least one year. But this company has completed this in a record three months."

Mr. Devare said, "For anyone to arrive at an estimation, sufficient data has to be collected. But it appears the agency has failed in collecting data from the ground. It has also come to light that the DPR has data and names pertaining to Maharashtra making one think that the company may have resorted to a copy-and-paste job."

He added that without calculating the number of trees for translocation and designs for artwork, landscaping, estimation is not possible.

'KRS creates history by being full for 156 days'

The Krishnaraja Sagar, which is filled to the brim. M.A. SRIRAM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

For the first time in the history of Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), whose construction was completed in 1931, the water level in the reservoir was hovering around 124.80 ft which is maximum level, for 156 days.

This was stated by Mandya district in-charge Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy after chairing the KRS Irrigation Consultative Committee meeting in Tuesday.

The Minister said water was being discharged to the canals continuously since the last six months while the discharge to the lower riparian State of Tamil Nadu was more than what has been stipulated by the court.

Though the water level on January 7 was 124.30 ft against the full level of 124.80 ft, Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy said the decline was only marginal.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) has indicated that the water level on the same day last year was 96.58 ft.

The quantum of water in the reservoir as on January 7 was 48.75 tmcft against the gross storage capacity of 49.45 tmcft. The storage on the same day last year was 20.25 tmcft. The gross storage capacity of the four major reservoirs - KRS, Hemavathi, Kabini, Harangi - in the Cauvery basin in the State is 114.57 tmcft against which the cumulative storage as on January 7 is 91.87 tmcft. The cumulative storage in the four dams on the same day last year was 51.89 tmcft.

Another plaint filed against Aishwarya Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a city-based jeweller filed a cheating complaint against Aishwarya Gowda, who allegedly misused the name of former MP D.K. Suresh, a gynaecologist has now accused her of cheating her of ₹2.5 crore and 2.3 kg of gold three years ago.

The victim, Manjula Patil, in her complaint to the R.R. Nagar police on Sunday, said the accused used to come to her hospital for consultations and introduced herself as the sister of the DK brothers. Claiming to be a businesswoman involved in investments, she took a loan from her and returned it. A few days later, Aishwarya allegedly approached her with a proposition to invest in gold business, casinos and other ventures that offered high returns, luring her into giving a total sum of ₹2.5 crore and 2.3 kg of gold valuables from March 2020 to December 2024 and cheated her.

Dr. Patil said that she learned about Aishwarya Gowda's arrest through the media. She also said that after she got out on bail, the accused sent her driver to Dr. Patil and spoke to her over the phone threatening her not to file a complaint or give a statement.

Culture of VIP darshan at religious places should be dispensed with, says Jagdeep Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Tuesday that "the very idea of VIP darshan (at religious places) militates against divinity" and it should be dispensed with. He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the new three-storey queue complex 'Sri Saanidhya' on the premises of Manjunatha temple at Dharmasthala.

The Vice-President said: "...When precedence is accorded, when priority is given to someone, when we label it as VVIP or VIP, this is belittling the concept of equality. VIP culture is an aberration, it is an incursion when viewed on the anvil of equality. It should have no place in society, much less in religious places. I hope this Dharmasthala being led by a luminary of all times will serve as an example of egalitarianism and let us shun for all times VIP culture."

Earlier, Mr. Dhankar said: "...A soothing change in recent years in our country has been infrastructural growth that is germane to our religious places. This needs to be applauded as these are centres also of our civilisational values. Religious institutions are emblematic of equality since there is no individual higher before the Almighty. We should re-instil the idea of equality in religious institutions." The Vice-President said that political climate in the country is a challenge as much as climate change. "We have to work to harmonise it." "There is an urgent need in the country to ensure, to think, to reflect on deep political divisiveness. We cannot ignore our long-term gains and commitment to nationalism for short-term gains. The political temperature in the country need to be moderated by rational minds...," he said.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar speaking at Dharmasthala on Tuesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

Mr. Dhankhar said that politics is not meant for bitterness. Politicians will and must have different ideologies. The object of politics should not be power alone. It should be serving society and the nation.

India is defined by its diversity because the diversity converges into unity. "But why should there be political bitterness? That's not our culture," he said. "We believe in universal brotherhood, sisterhood. We take the world as one family. Can we 24/7 only be politicking? Can we 24/7 engage only for political gains?," he asked.

The Vice-President said that dialogue and expression defined democracy and they should go together. "...If our right of expression is curtailed, diminished, the best of an individual cannot come forward. But if we insist only on expression and do not believe in dialogue and insist only on expression and believe that we have all our rights, we are unfair to humanity...," he said.

Central College enters 150th year of educational legacy

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Nestled among century-old trees in the heart of Bengaluru reflecting the colonial architectural style and colours is the campus of Central College, one of Bengaluru's oldest educational institutions, which now houses the Bengaluru City University. The college was established in 1875 and has now stepped into its 150th year.

A view of Bengaluru City University, which is located on Central College campus. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A walk on the green and red campus in the present day is a blend of history and the modern times. While retaining the Gothic architecture of the 19th century, the campus has undergone restoration and renovation in the last three years at a cost of ₹155 crore.

"Many parts of the campus were in an almost dilapidated condition and even entering certain parts of the library had become difficult. We took it up as a mission to bring the campus back to its glory and completed the renovation work in three years. We have ensured that the campus retains its originality by sourcing materials like pure sand which was used when it was first constructed," explained Lingaraja Gandhi, Vice-Chancellor, Bengaluru City University.

The administrative block, economics department, physics department, the library, and Senate Hall are some of the structures that have undergone restoration.

Beginnings in a shed

While the Jnana Jyothi campus now sprawls across 43 acres on either sides of the Palace Road, its beginnings were in a shed in 1858 as 'Bangalore High School.' The clock tower in the Central Block of the campus, which has now become synonymous with Central College, was built in 1860 during the tenure of B.L. Rice, British author and educationist who was the principal of the high school. It was 15 years later that the name Central College was coined (in 1975). The college was then under the affiliation of Madras University and had just 43 students.

In 1916, thanks to the vision of Diwans and the erstwhile leaders of the Mysore royal family, Central College established its affiliation with the Mysore University. The college, which is often viewed as a twin of the Maharaja College in Mysuru, became known as the 'Science Campus' of Mysore University thereafter. In 1935, the college celebrated its diamond jubilee and the ocassion was marked with the inauguration of 'Central College Cricket Ground'. E.A.S. Prasanna, G.R. Vishwanath, and Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi were some of big names of cricket who played the game on these grounds, which hosted over 50 first-class cricket matches.

In 1942, the college had its first Indian principal, A. Subba Rao. A little down the lane, in 1964, Central College came under the affiliation of Bangalore University and started serving as its 'city campus'. It was during the academic year 2017-18 that it became the headquarters of the Bengaluru City University, which was born as the result of the trifurcation of Bangalore University.

The college showcases a long list of stalwarts - alumni and teachers. Among the most prominent alumni were Bharat Ratna awardees Sir M. Visvesvaraya, C. Rajagopalachari, and C.V. Raman. Later in 1928, Raman delivered his famous Nobel Prize, winning the 'Raman effect' lecture on March 16, 1928, on the same campus. Today, the same hall named after him is still used to deliver lectures to students. In fact, the desk and board used by Raman still stand strong in the hall.

"Central College was one of the best educational institutions I ever attended even though I spent only two years there pursuing my BSc degree. G.P. Rajarathnam was our Kannada professor and for every subject, we had renowned teachers. I also represented the college's hockey team and was its captain. I will always remember the college for its quality of education and the facilities provided," said former Lokayukta N. Santosh Hegde.

Today, over 4,000 students across 23 departments are studying on the campus.

Rich history of Central College

Important milestones

- **1860:** Iconic clock tower constructed
- **1875:** Central College established; affiliated to Madras University
- **1916:** Gets affiliated to Mysore University
- **1935:** Diamond jubilee and inauguration of cricket grounds
- **1942:** A. Subba Rao becomes first Indian principal
- **1964:** Gets affiliated to Bangalore University
- **2017-18:** Becomes headquarters of Bengaluru City University

Notable alumni

- Sir M. Visvesvaraya
- C. Rajagopalachari
- C.V. Raman
- S. Nijalingappa
- D. Devaraj Urs
- Sir Mirza Ismail
- Masti Venkatesh Iyengar
- Shivakumara Swami
- H. Narasimhaiah
- Chi. Na. Mangala
- H.S. Doreswamy
- M.N. Venkatachaliah
- Nittoor Srinivasa Rao
- N. Santosh Hegde
- R.N. Jayagopal

Famous teachers

- K.V. Puttappa
- G.S. Shivarudrappa
- Nisar Ahmed
- B.M. Srikantaiah
- T.S. Venkannaiah
- G.P. Rajaratnam
- P. Lankesh
- Hampa Nagarajaiah
- N.S. Lakshminarayana Bhatta
- Baragur Ramachandrappa

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 08	
RISE	06:44
SET	18:09
RISE	13:01
SET	01:03
THURSDAY, JAN. 09	
RISE	06:44
SET	18:09
RISE	13:49
SET	02:01
FRIDAY, JAN. 10	
RISE	06:45
SET	18:10
RISE	14:42
SET	03:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	30	15
Bengaluru	29	15

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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From Page One

One dead in Bidadi plant accident

The government did not claim responsibility for the accident as the plant has not been handed over to the KPCL by the private party. "The incident took place during the inspection phase," the Minister said. The contract for the plant's construction was awarded to ISGEC Heavy Engineering Ltd., Noida, with Hitachi Zosen India as its collaboration partner. ISGEC is responsible for the construction of the plant while Hitachi Zosen India provides technical expertise.

The Energy Minister on Monday ordered an immediate technical investigation into the incident and said "the issue is technical, and a decision will be taken once the investigation is completed". He also announced that compensation would be provided to the injured persons and the family of the deceased. Mr. George said the plant would be officially inaugurated once all issues were resolved.

The Bidadi police have booked the site engineer, the manager, and MD of the private company under sections 125 (A) and (B) (Act endangering life or personal safety of others), 287 (Negligent conduct with respect to combustible matter), 289 (Negligent conduct with respect to machinery), and 105 (culpable homicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Four held for assaulting scribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Pavagada police arrested a couple and two of their relatives for allegedly beating up a 59-year-old journalist publicly with slippers and humiliating him for carrying a news report against them.

Narayana Reddy, 49, his wife Roopa, 38, and relatives Lakshmi Devi, 48, and Adilakshmi, 48, have been charged under sections 117 (causing grievous hurt), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 133 (assault or criminal force with the intent to dishonor or humiliate someone), 324 (mischief causing wrongful loss or damage), 351 (criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult to provoke a breach of peace), 190 (unlawful assembly) and 54 (abetment) under the BNS.

Ramanjinappa T.A., editor of *Gadinadu Mitra Patrike*, a local daily, in his complaint said Narayana Reddy was arrested by the police in a case earlier and the news was published. The accused allegedly threatened him for humiliating him.

On Monday, the accused along with his family members allegedly confronted Ramanjinappa in Pavagada town and assaulted him while people watched as mute spectators.

Now, autorickshaw drivers seek increase in minimum fare

They want ₹40 for the first 2 km and ₹20 for each subsequent km

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The autorickshaw fares were last revised on December 20, 2021, after an eight-year gap, and prior to that, in 2013 . FILE PHOTO

With the Karnataka government recently implementing a 15% hike in bus fares across all four State-run transport corporations from January 5, autorickshaw drivers in Bengaluru have intensified their long-standing demand for a revision in auto fares.

Autorickshaw drivers argue that their pleas for a fare hike have gone unanswered for years, leaving them to grapple with rising fuel prices, spare parts costs, and inflation. The Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU) has repeatedly petitioned the Bengaluru Urban District Deputy Commissioner and the Karnataka Transport Minister to address their concerns.

The drivers' demand includes implementing annual fare revisions based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), a practice they believe would ensure fairness and sustainability for auto drivers. "Now that bus fares have been increased, the government should consider increasing the auto fares. The last fare revision was on December 20, 2021, after an eight-year gap, and prior to that, it was in 2013. These long intervals between revisions make it incredibly difficult for drivers to manage their expenses," said T.M. Rudramurthy, General Secretary of ARDU.

Rise in operating costs

Currently, the minimum fare for autorickshaw rides in Bengaluru is ₹30 for the first two kilometres, with an additional ₹15 charged for each subsequent kilometre.

However, Mr. Rudramurthy pointed out that operating costs for drivers have risen substantially over the past three years, especially due to higher prices for auto spare parts.

"Drivers can only cover around 70 kilometres a day due to heavy traffic, which severely limits their daily earnings. These challenges, compounded by inflation, make it imperative for the government to revise fares more frequently," he added.

The unions have also raised concerns about the Motor Vehicles Act, specifically Section 67(i), which mandates that auto fares be revised "from time to time" but fails to define a clear timeline for such revisions. The lack of specificity, they argue, has contributed to the prolonged gaps between fare adjustments.

In light of rising costs, the Adarsh Auto Union has proposed an increase in fares, suggesting ₹40 for the first 2 km and ₹20 for each subsequent km. "The price of CNG, which fuels nearly all autos in Bengaluru, has jumped to ₹83 per kg from ₹50-₹60 in 2021. Yet, fares have remained stagnant. While electric autos are an option, they are significantly more expensive to purchase, costing ₹4.70 lakh to ₹5 lakh compared to ₹2.35 lakh for a CNG auto," said L. Manjuntha, a member of the union.

City accounts for one-fourth of overall office transaction volumes in 2024, finds Knight Frank India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru accounted for one-fourth of the overall office transaction volumes across the top eight cities across the country during the calendar year 2024, the highest-ever annual absorption at 18.1 million sq.ft, a 45% increase from 12.1 million sq.ft in 2023, reported realty advisory firm Knight Frank India on Monday.

Bengaluru also recorded a half-yearly office transaction volume at 9.7 million sq.ft in the first half of CY2024, surpassing the previous best of 8.7 million sq.ft during the same period in 2021, it said.

According to Knight Frank's latest analysis, Global Capability Centres (GCCs) played a significant role in this growth, with their transacted volume increasing by 145% year-on-year from 3.8 million sq.ft in 2023 to 9.3 million sq.ft in 2024, constituting over 50% of the overall office transaction volume in the city.

Shantanu Mazumder, Executive Director, Bengaluru, Knight Frank India, said, "Key projects such as metro extensions and expressway developments have improved connectivity across Bengaluru, further boosting the appeal of micro-markets like PBD (peripheral business district) East and PBD North. These regions have benefitted from large-scale investments in office parks and urbanisation initiatives."

The operational Purple Line metro and ongoing construction of the Silk Board-Hebbal metro corridor have made these locations more accessible, attracting significant occupier interest and investments, he added.

Home market

The city's residential market also achieved a decadal high in 2024, with total sales reaching 55,363 units, claimed Knight Frank. New launches during the year brought in 56,014 units. While the ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore price segment continued to be the largest contributor to overall sales with a 38% share, this segment's base declined by 22%, from 26,836 units in 2023 to 21,000 units in 2024, the firm observed.

Transfers: Confusion continues in 13 sub-registrar offices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Confusion continues to reign in 13 sub-registrars offices in Bengaluru over transfer of sub-registrars, who have approached the High Court for relief.

According to a senior sub-registrar, the registration processes have been partly affected as the confusion continues for a week over the transfers. While the government initiated the sub-registrars' transfer process that has riled several officials, a set of 32 sub-registrars had approached the HC seeking relief. As many as 19 of them have found relief since the government accommodated them, 13 said that the log-in were not being given to them despite the relief from the court. "We approached the court since there were problems in the counselling, which was initiated without laying down rules. Several humanitarian reasons considered in transfers such as for those with physical disabilities and husband-wife postings had been given a go by," an aggrieved official said.

"Despite asking for log-in to continue to work for the past week, it has not been given. The HC has taken serious note of this."

According to sources though registration has not been affected much, multiple log-ins have been reported from the same office.

Dalit leaders' dinner meet called off after Cong. brass intervenes

Home Minister G. Parameshwara had convened the meet today in Bengaluru; Shivakumar, who was in Delhi, reportedly complained to the party leadership about the 'dinner meeting culture' in the party

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move to show the strength of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka, and apparently stake a claim to the post of Chief Minister in case of a change of guard, Home Minister G. Parameshwara had proposed to hold a "dinner meeting" with Ministers, legislators, MPs, and former legislators belonging to the community.

However, a few hours after the announcement of the meeting – scheduled for Wednesday at a private hotel in Bengaluru, Dr. Parameshwara called it off and postponed it to an unspecified date. This was apparently following instructions from Randeep Singh Surjewala, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka.

G. Parameshwara

Community issues

Earlier in the day, speaking to reporters, Dr. Parameshwara, who held the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president's post for a record eight years, said only SC and ST community legislators, MPs, Ministers and former legislators had been invited for the dinner meeting to discuss various issues related to the communities.

According to sources, KPCC chief and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who was Delhi on Tuesday, reportedly complained to the party high command about the "dinner meeting culture" in the party and is said to have asked the high command to take steps to prevent such meetings, in the interest of the party and the government.

A dinner meeting held on January 2 and attended by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and other Dalit Ministers, has apparently not gone down well with Mr. Shivakumar, who was on foreign tour with his family members at that time.

Dr. Parameshwara had said the proposed meeting would discuss the resolutions passed by the SC/ST convention held before the 2023 Legislative Assembly election in Chitradurga. The party was not able to conduct the "thanksgiving" programme for the community people after the Assembly election owing to lack of gap between the polls and the State legislature session.

Community leaders, including Dr. Parameshwara, have been seeking the Chief Minister's post for a Dalit for a while now. In fact, his decision to hold the dinner meeting of Dalit leaders is largely seen as a protest of sorts against the alleged interference of Mr. Shivakumar in the Home Department, particularly related to "issuing directions" to the Belagavi police for the arrest of BJP MLC C.T. Ravi for his derogatory remarks against Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar.

Fodder to Opposition

The proposed meeting is likely to provide a platform for another round of a political slugfest among Congress leaders and provide fodder to the Opposition to hit out the ruling party's priorities.

HC strikes down Green Energy Open Access Rules

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major setback to the Central government, the High Court of Karnataka has struck down the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, which were framed for promoting generation, purchase, and consumption of green energy, including the energy from waste-to-energy plants through open access in a bid to reach the goal of net-zero emission by 2070 as per international climate commitment.

The court said the Centre lacked the legislative competence under the Electricity Act, 2003, to frame the rules (commonly known as the Green Energy Open Access [GEOA] Rules, 2022).

Regulating powers

"Since the power to regulate the transmission, determination and, more specifically, all aspects relating to open access is conferred exclusively on the State electricity commission under Sections 42 (2) and 181 of the Act, it is

The Centre lacks the legislative competence to frame this law, says court

obvious that all aspects of open access lie within the exclusive domain of the State commission," the court said.

Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda passed the order while partly allowing the petitions filed by Brindavan Hyderopower Pvt. Ltd., and 12 other hydropower generating companies, who have subsisting agreements for wheeling and banking with electricity transmission and distribution companies.

The Centre, in the guise of exercising its residual power under Section 176(2) of the Act, cannot contend that it can frame rules to carry out the provisions of the Act, the court said while also striking down the Karnataka Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access) Regulations, 2022, as it was framed on the basis of the GEOA Rules, 2022.

However, the court gave liberty to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission to either frame the regulation afresh for granting open access to green energy generators and consumers if it so desires or retain its 2004 regulations on open access.

Net-zero commitment

On the Centre's argument that the GEOA Rules were framed to fulfil India's commitment made at the international climate change conference in Paris to achieve net-zero emission by exercising the power under Article 253 of the Constitution of India, which enables Parliament to make law for implementing any treaty, agreement or convention, the court said this constitutional power does not empower the Centre to transgress an existing law and frame rules/regulations in contravention of the Electricity Act, which was enacted in 2003.

RPF training centre will come up at K.R. Nagar: HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday said that his Cabinet colleague and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had promised to establish a Railway Protection Force (RPF) training centre at K.R. Nagar in Mysuru district.

Mr. Kumaraswamy met his Cabinet colleague in Delhi on Tuesday with a list of proposals of which the training centre was one.

The Centre is expected to invest ₹150 crore to ₹200 crore and it would provide training to 600 personnel annually.

According to a note from Mr. Kumaraswamy, the formal request to establish a training school was made by emphasising railway safety in the Mysuru region, and the Railway Minister assured him of immediate action on the matter. The proposal said the old railway station at K.R. Nagar had been relocated, and that the old station premises remained unutilised.

"There will be no land acquisition issue, making it ideal for the training centre. The RPF training school would generate large-scale employment, providing direct and indirect opportunities to local youth and contributing to the development of the Mysuru region," said the note.

Other proposals

Among other proposals that received positive response, the note said, were a railway flyover at the level-crossing between Ramanagara and Channapatna and upgrading the Sakleshpur railway station on Bengaluru-Mangaluru route. The other request to the Railway Minister included approval of a new train on the Mumbai-Bengaluru-Mangaluru route via Hassan, approval for a broad-guage line in Koppal district and approval for Hejjala-Kanakapura-Malavalli-Kollegal-Yelandur-Chamarajanagar railway line.

'Govt. owes contractors ₹32,000 crore'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing his tirade against the State government, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday said the government owes contractors a whopping ₹32,000 crore.

Listing out the dues in departments, he said dues of ₹14,600 crore was pending in the Water Resources Department, ₹10,000 crore in Public Works, ₹3,100 crore in RDPR, ₹2,800 crore in Minor Irrigation Department, and ₹1,500 crore in other departments.

CM raps officials for the habit of spending funds at the fag end of financial year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reviewed the progress of the Social Welfare Department on Tuesday, expressed strong displeasure over the delay in fund utilisation and reprimanded officials for the habit of spending funds only at the end of the financial year.

He said of the ₹5,377 crore allocated to the department for 2024-25, ₹3,631 crore had been released, but only ₹2,892 crore had been utilised.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during a meeting to review the progress of the Social Welfare Department on Tuesday.

Instructions to CS

Mr. Siddaramaiah instructed Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to take action against officials delaying fund utilisation. Managing directors of corporations failing to spend the allocated funds would face immediate suspension. Notices would be served if no proper explanation is provided, he said.

The Chief Minister said corporations such as B.R. Ambedkar corporation (₹900 crore) and Bhovi corporation (₹107 crore) had not utilised funds meant for beneficiaries. He instructed officials that pre-matric scholarships must be disbursed by September and post-matric scholarships by November every year. Aadhaar-related delays must be avoided, and all students should be linked to Aadhaar without fail, said Mr. Siddaramaiah. Of the ₹164 crore allocated for pre-matric scholarships, ₹105 crore had been utilised. However, post-matric scholarships, with an allocation of ₹230 crore, had been fully utilised.

He emphasised the need for officials to work with commitment to benefit marginalised communities and ensure timely implementation of all schemes. He warned of strict action against inefficiency or negligence in delivering government benefits to beneficiaries.

Only 55.69% of budgetary funds spent so far: Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Govt. has spent only ₹1.79 lakh crore of the ₹3.22 lakh earmarked for this financial year, the BJP leader says

Accusing the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government of pushing the State to the "brink of financial bankruptcy" due to mismanagement of finances, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Tuesday alleged the government was able to spend only 55.69% of the budgetary funds though only a little over two months were left for the financial year to end.

At a press meet here, Mr. Ashok said the government had so far spent only ₹1.79 lakh crore of the total ₹3.22 lakh earmarked for this financial year.

He accused Mr. Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, of hoodwinking the deprived communities by reducing the grants for their development.

Citing some examples, he said while the BJP government had given ₹60 crore for the Ganga Kalyana scheme of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation in 2022-23, the Congress government had given only ₹40 crore for the scheme in 2024-25. Similarly, the Congress had given only ₹45 crore for the self-employment scheme under this corporation as against the BJP's grant of ₹100 crore.

The allocation for the Bovi development corporation too had come down from ₹95 crore during the BJP dispensation to ₹55 crore now, he alleged. Even for the D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation, the allocation had been reduced from ₹190 crore during the BJP dispensation to ₹100 crore now, he said.

He alleged the Congress government had reduced the allocation to temples and other religious institutions to a mere ₹17.5 crore from the ₹274.68 crore during the BJP regime. Similarly, the Congress government had given only ₹30 crore to various mutts and temples under the Chief Minister's Special Assistance as against ₹154.85 crore given during the BJP regime, he alleged.

Free course

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Krishik Sarvodaya Foundation is conducting a free UPSC Prelims crash course from January 16 to April 30, in both online and offline modes. For registration, call Ph.: 9845319299 or 9845318599 or visit www.ksfkarnataka.com.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

T R Ranganathan, 91yrs,Retired Assistant Editor, The Hindu,Chennai passed away on 07- January -2025. Address: New No:25,Old No:9 Canal Bank Road Kasturi Bai Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600020. Contact No: 98409 14250

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NOTICE No: ITBTST/2024-25/SE0023

The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT and Bt, is inviting proposals for the selection of an implementing partner for the Digital Art Centers 3.0 (DAC) initiative in Karnataka. In this regard, KITS invites proposals from qualified agencies in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Interested agencies are required to download the soft copy of the Request for Proposals and upload their proposal (in PDF format) on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in using the bidder's Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

Any notices or information related to this Request for Proposals in the future will be available exclusively on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

The application period starts on **January 8, 2025** and ends on **February 07, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.** Please refer to the Request for Proposals document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire # 59 Railway Parallel Road,
Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram,Bengaluru – 560020
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail: kitsgok@karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/4187/AKAR/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC-East)
Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No. EE(QA/QC)/East/TEND/77/24-25 Date: 07.01.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control-East, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for 'Balance Gabion work, Pathway Improvements, Outerbody grill work and Bund Slope Protection works in Ulsoor Lake.'	1000.00	20,350/-
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for 'Construction of Inlet Culvert, retaining wall, construction in Western Periphery, Shoreline Grill works and other Amenities in Ulsoor Lake".	1000.00	18,750/-

Time Period : **Till completion of the project.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 10.01.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **15.01.2025 at 11.30 am. (3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders : **20.01.2025 upto 4.00 pm**. **(4)** Date of opening of technical bid : **21.01.2025 at 4.30 pm. (5)** Validity of tender : **90 days from last date of receipts of tender.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC-East), BBMP

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
ANAAJ BHAWAN, SECTOR 39-C, CHANDIGARH

Notice Inviting Tender

Online bids under two bid system i.e. Technical and Financial, are invited from eligible bidders for engagement of Service Provider(s) to provide Preservation, Maintenance and Security (PMS) services for food grains stored in godowns owned/ hired by the State Procurement Agencies (SPAs) in the State of Punjab.
For details log onto: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in or http://foodsuppb.gov.in
Bid submission period: From 02:00 PM on 08.01.2025 till 03:00 PM on 18.01.2025.
Pre-bid Conference: On 10.01.2025 at 12:00 noon in the Committee room, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh.
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender shall be published on the above websites only.

Managing Director,
PUNGRAIN

NA/12/27330/2023/40549

Government of Karnataka
MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
MANDYA-571401
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone &Fax: 08232-231001,
Director: 08232-222086
CAO: 08232-231197, FA: 08232-401198
E.Mail Address:mimsmandya@gmail.com
MIMS/EST(4)/Adac/01/2024-25 Date:03.01.2025

NOTIFICATION

Application are invited from the interested eligible candidate for the following post on contractual / Temporary basis for a period of 11(Eleven) months work in the Cancer Centre at Mandya Institute of Medical Science, Mandya. The Minimum educational Qualification consolidated pay and other details may be obtained by visiting the Institute Website https://mims.karnataka.gov.in/ Application can be downloaded from the Institute website.

Walk-in-Interview Date: 17.01.2025
1. Medical Physicist cum RSO -01(One)

Sd/-Director, Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಖ/ಸಸಾ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಐಎಂಎಸ್/ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/533/2024–25

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Project Section, CESC,
Mysuru-570017. **Phone No.: 0821-2544963**
Email: gmit@cescmysore.org **Website:** cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in

No: CESC/GM(IT&MIS)/DGM(IT)/AGM(IT-2)/2024-25/23900 **Date :** 06.01.2025

Short Term Tender Notification (KPP Portal Only)

CESC, Mysore invites Tenders from eligible bidders for the following :

Sl. No.	Works details	Enquiry No./ Date
1	Setting up and maintenance of EV charging stations at various CESC & KPTCL office premises and any other locations notified/suggested by CESC under PPP model in Mysore, Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Hassan & Kodagu districts.	CESC/IT&MIS /EV/2024-25/ 02/Call-2 Dtd: 06.01.2025

The works & tender details can be obtained through KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or **after 09-01-2025.** For clarification contact help desk +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/-
General Manager (IT&MIS)
CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/1069/2024-25

Peek into the world of city's smallest inhabitants

A new book, *Commonly Spotted Insects & Spiders in the City of Bengaluru,* explores around 135 insects and 25 spiders. Its e-version is on the Bengaluru Sustainability Forum website

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Spotting spiders. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Did you know ants once shared the planet with dinosaurs like the T-Rex and the Velociraptor? Or that termites cultivate food gardens of fungi within their large, intricately constructed mounds? And that it isn't just honey that will go missing in a world without bees, but also many fruits, vegetables, grains and nuts. Also, not all spiders build webs, cockroaches are a lot more than irritating house pests, butterflies can taste food with their feet, and male cicadas serenade potential mates using a unique sound-producing organ on their abdomen called the tymbal?

The world of these minibeasts is indeed both enigmatic and fascinating, as a new book, *Commonly Spotted Insects & Spiders in the City of Bengaluru*, reinforces repeatedly. "The lives, survival strategies and nature history stories of insects and spiders can range from the calmly simple (or at least what we know so far) to the bizarrely complex," states the introduction to the book, which has been co-authored by Vena Kapoor, Priya Venkatesh and Vaidya R., designed by Pratyush Gupta and enabled by the Bengaluru Sustainability Forum's Small Grants Programme.

To get to know them

Filled with mind-boggling facts and gorgeous pictures, it offers a ringside view of the lives and natural histories of some of the city's many six- and eight-legged creatures – around 135 insects and 25 spiders – serving as "an easy-to-use tool to help you identify and get to know more about the some of the commonly found insects and spiders living their lives around us."

As Vaidya points out, most of the images in the book were not shot in far-flung, wooded areas with many trees but bang amid the concrete jungle that is Bengaluru. "Most of them have been shot right at homes or just outside them, in gardens, etc," says the Bengaluru-based nature enthusiast and photographer. "The main point we are trying to emphasise is that there is a lot of biodiversity, even in your backyard."

Arthropods, the phylum which includes insects, spiders, scorpions, centipedes, millipedes, crabs, prawns and even head lice, is the most successful animal group on the planet, consisting of over 800,000 described species, with many still undiscovered. First emerging in the water around 500 million years ago, before colonising land a few million years later, arthropods are found in every nook and cranny of the planet today. So ubiquitous are these tiny creatures that the combined biomass of terrestrial arthropods alone is believed to be roughly 1 billion tonnes, roughly equivalent to the biomass of all human beings and livestock put together, according to a study published in the open-access journal *Science Advances* in 2023.

Insects, which form the majority of the arthropods, "pretty much rule the world," says Priya, the founder-director of The Naturalist School (TNS), Bengaluru. She considers them "the most diverse and fascinating creatures we have on Planet Earth: they come in all shapes, sizes and colours, are also found everywhere, in the air, land and water" and are "a very important part of the entire food chain because of which the whole planet is going around," she says. Not only are they both prey and predators, but they also play an important role in helping many plants propagate. "Most of the plant kingdom, as you know, are producers, without which there would be no food on this planet," says Priya. And many of these plants, particularly those that make fruits, depend on insects for pollination. "In that sense, they are very intricately connected to life on earth."

Priya Venkatesh

Vena, a city-based conservationist and independent nature educator, believes that observing and learning about arthropods is also a great way to get people interested in nature and natural systems. Often, too often, there is a deep cognitive dissociation between human beings and insects, she says. "They are all around us but are often kind of hidden. We don't notice them as much because of their size or the associations we have with them." She finds it pretty humbling to know that there are millions of organisms around us, playing such crucial roles and that we are only just scratching the surface and getting to know them. "They are as messy as human beings with bizarre habits and behaviours."

Genesis of book

The idea for *Commonly Spotted Insects & Spiders in the City of Bengaluru* started with the realisation that there was no easy-to-use guide on insects that could help people get more natural history information about arthropods, especially insects and spiders that they encounter even in a city like Bengaluru. People would have to troll through popular apps like i-naturalist or Google it," says Vena, who often leads these nature walks. "Nature educators, like myself, were also doing that because we had no other means to access this information."

The idea, therefore, was to create a resource for beginner naturalists that was easy to use and understand without being too heavily scientific, she says. The initial plan was to create a set of flashcards about insects, much like the flashcards on common Indian birds currently produced by the Nature Conservation Foundation, says Vena. "We pitched this idea to the Bengaluru Sustainability Forum's Small Grants Programme and were, luckily, selected among many applicants," she says. The next step was selecting the insects and spiders that would be featured, a mammoth task considering the sheer diversity. "We could have easily done a book 10 times this size." They started by first coming up with different groups, such as ants, termites, butterflies, spiders, mantids, lacewings, beetles and so on, and then identifying the most common species in those groups using a combination of experience and also by using the iNaturalist database, says Vaidya, adding that, in some cases, where quite a few species existed in each group, as in the case of beetles and dragonflies, it was further narrowed down to the most commonly-seen species to "make sure you get the most representative species in the city."

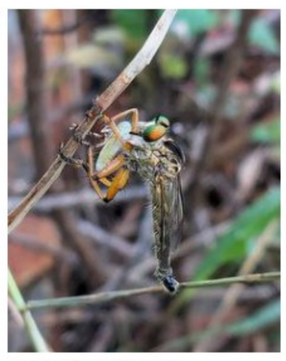
Once the initial master database was created, images had to be sourced and matched to the various insects and spiders that were finally selected. While some of the photos already existed with the co-authors, many did not, and so "my main task was about finding these images," says Vaidya, who turned to iNaturalist, reaching out to nature enthusiasts and naturalists who had posted images on it, such as Jithesh Pai, Anubhav Agarwal, Chandu Bandi and Yuvan Aves. While the initial plan was to create flashcards, after taking feedback from multiple people, the initiative evolved into its current format, a book offering detailed information about some common insects and spiders in the city, including the tropical fire ant, the carpenter bee, the potter wasp, the common tree cricket, the giant Asian mantis, the flesh fly, the cotton stainer bug and crab spiders.

Weevil Beetle. VENA KAPOOR

Chrysomelidae Tortoise beetle. VENA KAPOOR

Twig mantis. VENA KAPOOR

Leaf Katydid. VENA KAPOOR


Robberfly with prey. VENA KAPOOR

Two-Tailed Spider Hersilia VENA KAPOOR

Translation in the offing

"The idea was to create a reference book and visual tool that nature educators can use while taking people out for walks," says Vena, adding that around 100 free print copies of the book will be distributed free of cost to Bengaluru's nature educators. An e-version of the book is also available for free download on the Bengaluru Sustainability Forum website, and a Kannada translation is in the works. "Having the whole book as open source means that people can look at it, take printouts for themselves and use it," she adds.

By this offering, the authors hope that people will eventually feel a sense of connection to these tiny animals that are such a crucial part of Planet Earth. "The idea is that the more we get to know about the life forms that share our world, the hope is that there will be more empathy-building, curiosity, and a sense of wonder," says Vena. She also believes that the book could be a starting point to help people reflect on what is required to protect these creatures and how our daily behaviours and habits have a profound impact on the lives of these creatures who share our world with us. "This book is just one tool to get people more interested and curious about what they can find in Bangalore," she says. "The hope is also that they start documenting and recording behaviour more, contributing to natural history observations, which we don't do enough of in this country."

Kids for Tigers to hold their annual inter-school tiger fest

This is the 25th year of the initiative, which currently works with more than 90 schools in six cities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Some events include a next box workshop, poster painting, and group song competition. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

From last year's Kids for Tigers event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kids for Tigers, a children's environment awareness programme conducted by the Sanctuary Nature Foundation and sponsored by IndusInd Bank in Bengaluru, will hold its annual inter-school tiger fest at the Jawahar Bal Bhavan Society, Cubbon Park, Bengaluru, on Saturday, January 11.

According to Mamlakatoi Haidarova, Bengaluru Coordinator, Kids for Tigers, the fest is a unique opportunity for children in the Kids for Tigers programme to come together, learn about tiger conservation and interact with like-minded wildlife defenders.

This is the 25th year of the initiative, which currently works with more than 90 schools in six cities and seeks to "increase awareness among children about India's biodiversity and sensitise them to the fact that saving tigers and their forests is essential to India's food and water security," she says. In Bengaluru, where the initiative touches around thirty schools, Saturday's event is "an interactive way for the public to be exposed to the great work being done by the students of Bengaluru to save the tiger and the environment," says Haidarova, adding that this fest offers children a public platform to showcase their conservation resolve and work done in their respective schools through nature clubs or with the encouragement of school staff.

Over 300 students are expected to participate in the event, which will kick off at 9.30 a.m. and go on till 2 p.m. Some events include a next box workshop, poster painting, group song competition and an address by Bengaluru-based naturalist, environment conservationist, photographer, and Emmy-nominated filmmaker Kalyan Varma. "The Kids for Tigers Fest offers an excellent opportunity for interschool interactions between students and teachers to share their views creatively and express themselves in ways that send strong yet respectful messages to other kids and the adults in their lives on the need to protect the planet," believes Haidarova.

To know more, email Mamlakatoi Haidarova at mamlakatoi@gmail.com

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1975

Rice Smugglers Shift Routes

Bengaluru: Smugglers of rice and paddy from here to Tamil Nadu are stated to have shifted their route following the intensive patrolling of the border areas by the Bangalore District police.

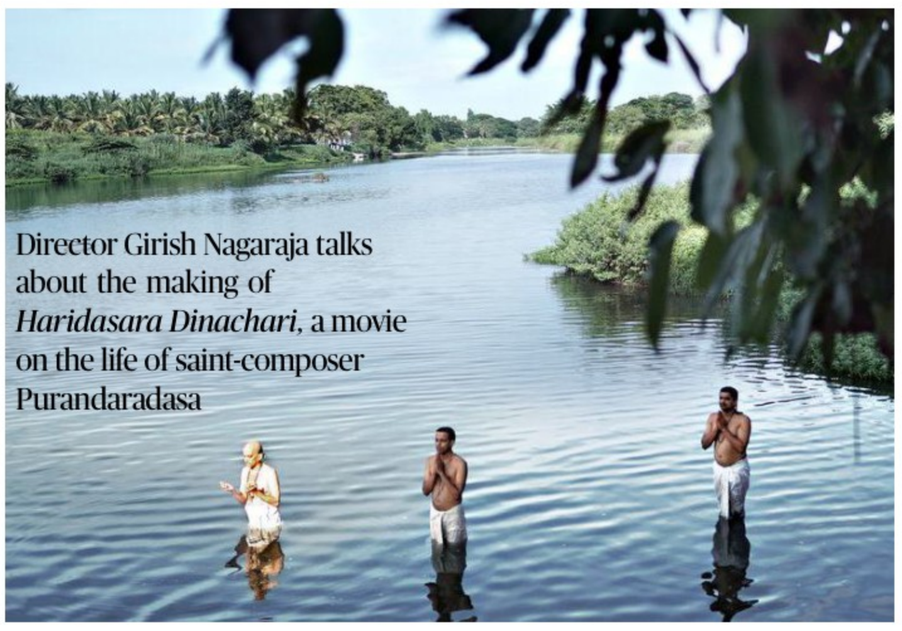
The smugglers who were first taking the Hosur Road later shifted to the kutcha roads constructed by the Land Army near Anekal, as the Bangalore district police sealed the Karnataka Tamil Nadu border in these areas. The smugglers are now trying to transport rice and paddy in lorries through the forest around Kanakapura.

Central Aid to States for Plan: No Enhancement

New Delhi: The Union Government has clearly told the State Governments that Central assistance to their annual plans for 1975 76 will be retained at the same level as for 1974 75, amounting to Rs. 749.94 crore and will not be increased on account of the severe constraint on Plan resources. If the States want a bigger plan, they will have to mobilise the additional resources required by their own efforts.

Story of saint-composer Purandaradasa

Ranjani Govind



Director Girish Nagaraja talks about the making of *Haridasara Dinachari*, a movie on the life of saint-composer Purandaradasa

A life well lived Stills from the movie *Haridasara Dinachari* by Girish Nagaraja. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"How do you evoke devotion while singing the 'Devaranama'," asks one of Purandaradasa's disciples in the film *Haridasara Dinachari*. The saint explains, "Concentrate on the lyrics and understand them, feel the spirit before singing. Your devotion will parallel your melody. That is what is called singing to the Lord with fervour."

If this line conveys a little of how Purandaradasa's Bhakthi-laden musical exhortations were directed towards social reform, inclusivity and religious harmony, the film explains them in full measure.

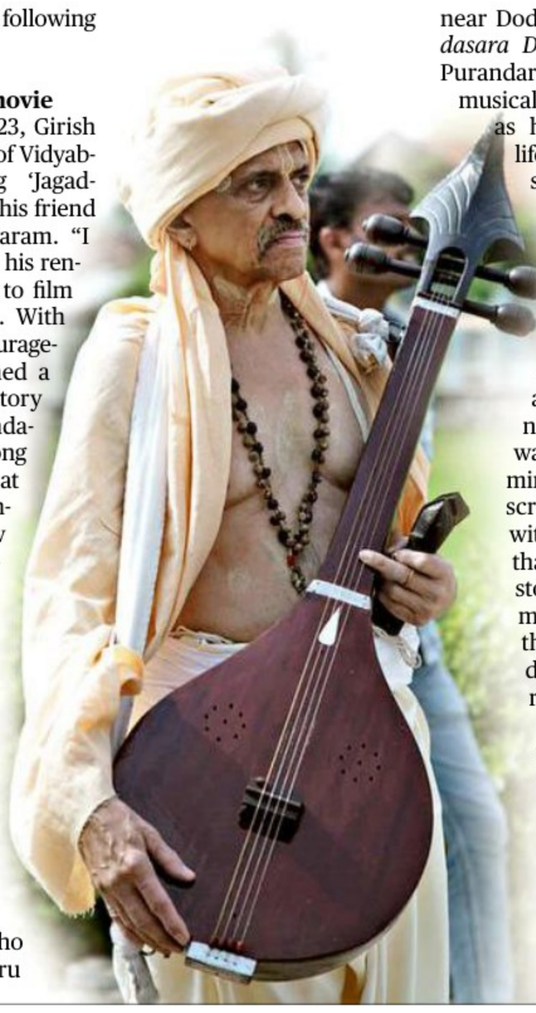
Adelaide-based filmmaker Girish Nagaraja, born and brought up in Bengaluru, and the director of the Kannada film, *Haridasara Dinachari* released by Karigiri Films, addressed audiences at its launch, explaining the motivation behind his work.

"I have attempted a documentary-feature chronicling 'a day in the life of the saint-composer Purandaradasa.' It has generous voice-overs and songs, and can also be termed a short musical. Hope you enjoy these classical melodies that were actually a part of Purandaradasa's daily routine," said Girish, adding the subject was close to his heart since he was a teenager.

"Being a connoisseur of Kannada literature and devotional hymns, particularly *Haridasa sahitya*, this creation was not only a challenge as my first film, but also in convincing classical musician Vidyabhushana to play Purandaradasa. I am here for any questions about the movie, following the screening."

Making of the movie

In November 2023, Girish watched a video of Vidyabhushana singing 'Jagadhodharana' with his friend Madhusudan Jayaram. "I was so moved by his rendition, I wanted to film him singing this. With my friend's encouragement, I envisioned a cinematic story which had Purandara penning the song for Lord Krishna at Dodda Malur Temple, which is how the hymn originated in reality too."



The film, Girish says, is crafted it as 'a day in the life of Purandaradasa' at Malur temple where he is said to have rested while on the way to visit his guru Vyasathirtharu who was then in Abburu near Dodda Malur. "*Haridasara Dinachari* depicts Purandara's devout and musical lifestyle as well as his principles of life, spirituality and social justice."

According to Vidyabhushana, Girish's offer came as a shock, and he says he brushed it off saying, "I am a singer and not an actor." It was Girish's determined efforts and a script furnished with "more songs than to convey the story and minimum dialogues" that prompted Vidyabhushana to reluctantly agree.

After the positive response the movie has garnered, Vidyabhushana says, "What I enjoyed most was the selection of 18 musical renderings (nine Ugabhogas and nine songs) which are some of the rarest ones from Purandaradasa's treasure of 4.75 lakh compositions."

From the first frame, the *dasa sahitya* (lyrics of the dasas) and other *namasankeerthane* (devotional songs) draw the viewer in. The docu-feature begins with a set of line drawings by Ghanashyam KV, that are later seen in the movie, even as Narayana Sharma's evocative rendering of 'Dasarendare Purandaradasaraiyya' , plays in the background.

Vidyabhushana sang all the songs penned by Purandaradasa, Girish says. The first one, however, as it was an introduction to Purandaradasa composed by his guru Vyasathirtha, we had the young musician Narayana Sharma sing it in Kambodhi (a Carnatic raga)."

Girish spoke highly of cinematographer Hari Raju M, the 27-year-old who graduated from the Chennai Cinematography Institute. His aerial shots of Hampi and of the sunrise by serene waters, showing Purandara and his *shishyas* at Dodda Malur temple for morning prayers, have received acclaim and gone viral on social media.

Overcoming hurdles

The challenges Girish faced during the creation of his year-long project, included getting a tanpura that looked right. "Purandara was a 15th century saint reformer and it is said his tanpura was a unique one that he had designed. Getting an authentic-looking replica was not an easy task – Vidyabhushana rejected as many as 18 tanpuras. Finally, two days before the shoot, he told us to reach out to the Dasaiyya community near Chamarajanagar, who used a similar instrument for worship. After he approved, a tanpura was made overnight."

> *Haridasara Dinachari* depicts Purandara's musical lifestyle as well as his principles of spirituality and social justice.
>
> **GIRISH NAGARAJA**
> Filmmaker

As for the shooting locales, the team looked for temples that retained their ancient patina. "Even Dodda Malur, the mainstay of our film, now has roads, lamp posts and renovated walls. We shot at Kere-Tondanur near Melkote where the village environs of this temple and its stone corridors were a throw back to ancient times. We obtained permission to be at the archaeological sites of Melkote, Srirangapatna and Karighatta. We shot the River Cauvery from vantage points as the River Kanwa has now been reduced to a thin stream. Most of the agrahara scenes were shot at the Dakshina Chitra Heritage Museum in Chennai."

Next in the pipeline for Girish is the Sanskrit scholar and philosopher, Bannanje Govindacharya's magnum opus *Ramayana*.

How it all began

Girish is the son of classical singers Nagaraja and Shantha, and grandson of Pattabhiramachar, one of the five siblings of the Prabhat theatre professionals – Venkanna, Subbannachar, Praneshachar and Venugopala – who were also well known Harikatha vidwans. The Prabhat family tree also has links to the Purandara lineage.

"For my post graduation, I joined the Film Writing and Direction course at Bangalore Film Institute. At the time, Kunigal Nagabhushan Rao was a part of the faculty and he trained me in the nuances of screenplay and dialogues."

With a Masters in Biotechnology from MS Ramaiah College, Girish worked in the field of Environmental Conservation and Sustainability. For the last 18 years he has been living in Australia where he took up a Masters in Natural History film making as well as a MBA in Marketing Tourism from Flinders University in Adelaide.

"The seeds of *dasa sahitya* were sown in my childhood. My father did not miss an opportunity to explain the values embedded in these lyrics and encouraged me to sing them in my own style to improve my musical cognition," says Girish.

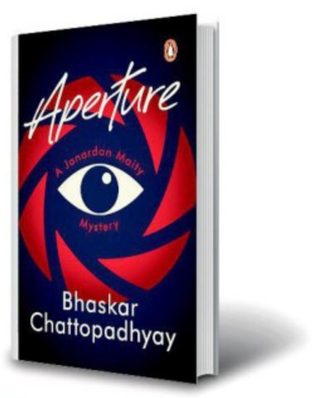
From 2010, Girish would regularly conduct open-air road shows with *dasa sahitya* and singing for *nagara sankeerthane* in Australia.

Haridasara Dinachari is currently running in theatres

Life and death through a lens

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

I spy with my little eye A still from *Tekka*, Bhaskar Chattopadhyay (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Screenshot
Bhaskar has written the story and screenplay for the Bengali film, *Tekka*, released in October 2024. It is available to stream on Hoichoi. "The film is an edge-of-the-seat hostage thriller set in the heart of Kolkata. *Tekka* translates to an ace in a deck of playing cards. The film is directed by my dear friend, Srijit Mukherji, and stars Dev, Swastika Mukherjee and Rukmini Maitra."

Bhaskar Chattopadhyay's *Aperture* (Penguin Random House), the fifth in the Janardan Maity series, features a photographer who witnesses a crime, who comes to Maity for help.

"It is difficult for a writer to pinpoint a singular genesis of a story," says Bhaskar. "A writer is like a sponge, soaking in life experiences – things seen, heard, read, tasted, smelt and felt. A concoction of some or all these experiences gives birth to a story."

Many years ago, Bhaskar says, he developed a passion for magic tricks. "There used to be a row of shops selling magic props in Park Lane, in Kolkata, that I frequented. The shopkeeper would show you a product, but tell you how to use it only after you paid him. He would show you how to use the trick in a small room behind the shop counter."

The dingy rooms, the atmosphere, the skills required to pull off the tricks, and the tragedy of the shopkeepers, who were master magicians, reduced to selling their tricks, could have been the genesis of *Aperture*, says Bhaskar. "The plot, of course, has shades of Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*."

When Maity talks of the magic shows losing their magic, Bhaskar says, "We must understand that he is in his fifties. At that age, it is not unnatural to reminisce the good old days and lament the absence of certain values or practices. Like Maity says in most of the novels, he is an old-fashioned man, with old-fashioned values. As for magic shows, Maity's lament is my own lament."

Losing the magic

The reason for magic shows and circuses losing their charm, Bhaskar says, is simple. "Visual effects, gadgets and artificial intelligence have begun to awe us. A man walking on a tightrope a hundred feet above the ground simply does not induce any awe in us anymore. A magician sawing a lady in half and then bringing her back in one piece will at best be a 'meh' moment for the younger generation. This was bound to happen, just as tap-dancers and mimes had fascinated our fathers and grandmothers, but found no audience with us."

Bhaskar studied science in college. "Optics was one of my favourite subjects, thanks to Prof. PK Dhar who explained it so well. It was in Prof. Dhar's classes that I learned so many terms that went on to become the names of many of my novels including shadow, penumbra and aperture."

Apt name

Aperture, Bhaskar says, is an apt name because it tells the story of a photographer who spies on people through a small opening, or aperture, in his apartment. "The story shows how a simple term from Physics has been used as a metaphor for something philosophical and profound."

Five novels on, Bhaskar says, he has a better understanding of what will work. "One of the things that I have had to unlearn is that I cannot keep writing the same kind of stories over and over again. While there are the boundaries of the genre, I need to come up with a wide range of stories."

Contrary to popular opinion, Bhaskar says, writing about Maity and his Watson, Prakash Ray has become more difficult. "There are only so many rabbits I can pull out of my hat! Sooner or later, my bag of tricks will run out, and as far as I am concerned, I would rather hang my hat than come up with a boring trick."

Conscious decision

From the beginning, Bhaskar says, he made a conscious decision not to show too much of a journey in Maity and Ray's lives.

"I don't wish them to go through major life events, apart from the inevitable process of aging, that have absolutely no bearing on the stories. The idea is to tell the world that solving crimes is all that these two gentlemen do. Anything else is bound to be a distraction.

Along the same lines, Bhaskar says, neither Maity nor Ray have room for romantic love in their lives.

"They are dedicated to enjoying the fine aspects of life such as good food, books, music, good cinema and of course, solving baffling mysteries." With no plans of a fixed number of books, Bhaskar says, "One fine day, Maity and Ray's story will simply be over."

Integral ingredient

Setting, Bhaskar says, is an important and integral ingredient of a good crime novel.

"It adds flavour, layers and dimensions to the story. So far, the Maity stories have been set in a different spaces from the misty forests of an erstwhile mining town in Jharkhand (*Here Falls the Shadow*), the pristine beaches of South Goa (*The Disappearance of Sally Sequeira*), to the lush tea gardens of the Dooars region of West Bengal (*Best Served Cold*). In each case, the setting has been of paramount significance to not just the story, but in painting character portraits as well."

Despite having moved to Canada, conjuring the seedy lanes of central Kolkata in *Aperture*, was not difficult, Bhaskar says. "No matter where I go, no matter where I die, no one and nothing can take Kolkata out of me. I know every nook, every corner, every lane, every smell, sight and sound of the city."

Bengaluru gets a passing mention in *Aperture*. "Bengaluru is the city that I spent the most number of years of my life in - 17! I would love to have Maity and Prakash solve a baffling mystery in namma Bengaluru!"

CITYBEATS

Time for pasta

ONGOING
Pasta Street has opened its eighth outlet in the city. Pasta Street is known for celebrating the rich heritage of Italian cuisine and features gourmet pastas that are made fresh in-house as well as hand-stretched Napoletana and Romana style pizzas, handcrafted ravioli, gnocchi, dolci and more.
At Sahakara Nagar, Park View Layout. Call 7760470913 or 8197945187 to book your table or avail a 20% discount on pre-bookings on Zomato, Swiggy and Eazydiner.

Debut dance

JANUARY 11
Tanmayi Sudhakar will perform her Bharatanatyam rangapravesha following her training under Dr Raksha Karthik over the past nine years. She will showcase her mastery of the dance, which will be presided over by Naganand Doreswamy who will be the chief guest and Dr M Suryaprasad (music and dance scholar, critic and columnist) as the guest of honour.
Event is open to all. At 5pm at JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar.

Nine BJP-RSS men get life sentence for killing DYFI activist Rijith 20 years ago

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

Rijith

The Thalassery Additional Sessions Court (III) in Kannur sentenced nine Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-Bharatiya Janata Party activists to rigorous life imprisonment on Tuesday for the murder of Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) activist Rijith, 26, from Kannapuram in 2005. Judge Ruby K. Jose also imposed a fine of ₹1.1 lakh on the convicted individuals.

Of the 10 accused in the case, the third accused, Ajesh, died in a car accident during the trial. The remaining nine convicted are V.V. Sudhakaran, 57, of Vayakodan in Kannapuram, K.T. Jayesh, 41, of Kothilathazhe, C.P. Ranjith, 44, of Chankulatparambil, P.P. Ajeendran, 51, of Puthiapura, I.V. Anilkumar, 52, of Illikkavalappul, P.P. Rajesh, 46, of Puthiapura, P.V. Srikanth, 47, of Vadakeveetil in Kannapuram, his brother V.V. Sreejith, 43, and Thekkaveettil P.V. Bhaskaran 67.

Rijith was hacked to death on October 3, 2005 in a politically motivated assault.

Family's reaction

Reacting to the verdict, Rijith's mother, Janaki, and sister, Sreeja, expressed disappointment, saying they had hoped for the maximum punishment of the death penalty for all the accused.

"The judgment brings no happiness or satisfaction as I will not get my son back," Ms. Janaki said. "However, I expected the death penalty for all of them. None of them should be allowed to return to society." She said no mother should have to endure such loss and urged political parties to refrain from violence and weaponised conflict to settle political disputes.

Ms. Janaki reflected on the long wait for justice, saying, "I waited 19 years. My husband, who waited 17 years for this day, passed away two years ago. Now, I am left to witness this moment alone."

Ms. Sreeja echoed her mother's sentiments, saying, "We expected the death penalty." When asked if the family planned to appeal against the judgment, she said they were yet to decide.

Special public prosecutor B.P. Saseendran represented the prosecution.

Six Maoists to surrender in Chikkamagaluru, return to mainstream

Police officers say with this, the Maoist movement is all set to come to an end in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A group of six Maoists is expected to appear before officers of the Chikkamagaluru district administration in Chikkamagaluru on Wednesday and make a statement to return to the mainstream, giving up the armed struggle.

With this development, the Maoist movement as we know it today is all set to come to an end in Karnataka, according to police officers.

Mundagaru Latha, Sundari Kuthlur, Vanajakshi Balehole, and Mareppa Aroli of Karnataka, K. Vasanth of Tamil Nadu, and Jeesha of Kerala are expected to walk into the office of the Deputy Commissioner in Chikkamagaluru on Wednesday. Their appeal to return to the mainstream has been ratified by the State-level committee to oversee the implementation of the naxal surrender policy, headed by the Chief Secretary of Karnataka.

Among the six people expected to surrender on Wednesday, four from Karnataka are in the 'A category', facing serious charges, and two from other States are in the 'B category'. The committee has resolved to offer ₹3 lakh each, the first instalment of the financial support, to those who surrender, as per the policy. The two from other States will get ₹2 lakh each. They will get the money only after bank accounts are opened in their names.

Representatives of the State committee to oversee the naxal surrender policy and members of Shantigagi Nagarikara Vedike met the Maoists recently. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Maoists and number of cases against them in Karnataka, Kerala

Latha Mundagaru, Sringeri 85	**Sundari Kuttaluru,** Belthangady 71	**Vanajakshi,** Mudigere 25
Mareppa Aroti alias Jayanna, Raichur 50	**K. Vasanth,** Ranipet, Tamil Nadu 9	**Jisha,** Wayanad, Kerala 18

They will make a statement before the officers, and the police will take them into custody.

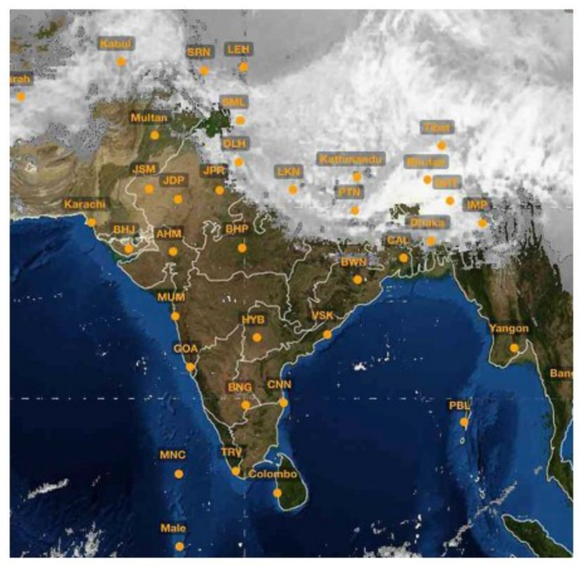
"They will not walk away free. As per the policy, they will have to undergo the procedure as per the law, depending on the cases they are facing. The police will present them before a judicial magistrate and also conduct a *mahazar* in cases in which investigation is still going on," said a senior police officer. However, they can apply for bail in due course.

Members of the State committee to oversee the implementation of the surrender policy, Banjagere Jayaprakash, K.P. Sripal, Bilidale Parvatheesha, and representatives of Shantigagi Nagarikara Vedike, made efforts to convey the Maoists' opinions to the State government and made consultations at both ends. Mr. Sripal, advocate, Noor Sridhar, Nagaragere Ramesh, and others of Shantigagi Nagarikara Vedike met the Maoists at an unknown place recently and held talks. Senior police officers of Internal Security, State Intelligence, Anti-Naxal Force, Counter Intelligence, and others have coordinated with the committee members. "With the surrender of six people, the Maoist movement will come to an end in Karnataka," said a senior police officer.

One more person, Ravi, who was active in the movement, has already left the group. Efforts to reach him have not succeeded so far, according to members of the committee.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh and west Rajasthan. Dense to very dense fog conditions likely in some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.7	15.9	Kozhikode	—	34.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	25.5	13.5	Kurnool	—	32.4	17.5
Aizawl	—	27.3	12.9	Lucknow	—	13.5	11.5
Allahabad	—	14.8	12.4	Madurai	—	30.0	20.1
Bengaluru	—	28.0	16.2	Mangaluru	—	32.3	22.0
Bhopal	—	21.4	9.0	Mumbai	—	33.3	15.2
Bhubaneswar	—	29.2	14.6	Mysuru	—	29.8	14.6
Chandigarh	—	16.4	10.0	New Delhi	—	16.2	10.5
Chennai	—	30.1	23.3	Patna	—	16.2	13.9
Coimbatore	—	30.6	17.4	Port Blair	—	30.6	26.0
Dehradun	—	20.6	7.4	Puducherry	—	29.0	23.0
Gangtok	—	14.5	7.5	Pune	—	31.0	16.7
Goa	—	32.0	20.0	Raipur	—	29.0	15.3
Guwahati	—	28.0	14.9	Ranchi	—	22.7	11.4
Hubballi	—	32.0	17.0	Shillong	—	—	—
Hyderabad	—	30.2	15.6	Shimla	2	14.0	4.2
Imphal	—	22.3	9.5	Srinagar	1	8.6	0.9
Jaipur	—	20.1	7.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.1	23.5
Kochi	—	31.8	23.2	Tiruchi	—	29.7	22.4
Kohima	—	20.0	5.2	Vijayawada	—	29.8	18.6
Kolkata	—	27.3	14.8	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	19.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.27	..42	71	... 101	...114	
Bengaluru	.15	..37	26	... 148	...106	
Chennai	...8	..16	30	... 246	.....—	
Delhi	...5	..42	86	... 345	...257	
Hyderabad	...8	105	31	... 156	...144	
Kolkata	.13	..50	44	... 285	...179	
Lucknow	...5	..36	52	... 276	...238	
Mumbai	.15	..24	34	... 282	...165	
Pune	..—	232	89	... 125	...119	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..95	38	... 265	...237	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hapur, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 346 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Karnataka Forest Department launches 'Garudakshi' online FIR system to curb crimes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Forest Department has launched the 'Garudakshi' online FIR system to curb forest encroachments, illegal tree-felling, poaching, and unauthorised entry into forest areas.

Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre, who on Tuesday launched the system developed in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust of India, said the new system was introduced to curb the increasing number of forest crimes, ensure that offenders are punished, and protect wildlife and forest resources.

Mr. Khandre said that on September 22, 2023, he directed officials to develop software to enable an online FIR system similar to that of the Police Department.

Initially, Garudakshi would be launched on a pilot basis in the Bengaluru Urban Division, Bengaluru Forest Mobile Squad Division, Bhadravati Division, Sirsi Division, and Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Division.

Based on feedback from the department staff, the software will be further enhanced and extended to all divisions across the State in a phased manner, he said.

He added that registering FIRs through the Garudakshi software would be made mandatory in the days to come.

"Previously, FIRs were manually recorded on paper using carbon copies, making case monitoring and chargesheet filing challenging. The online system will now enable authorities to track the number of chargesheets filed and pending cases from anywhere. Senior officials can keep track of all cases across divisions," he added.

Complainants will receive copies of the FIR, and they will also be able to check whether a chargesheet has been filed.

"Online FIR registration will be mandatory for cases related to forestland encroachment, illegal logging, and poaching, ensuring that chargesheets are filed without delay. This process will help reduce long-pending cases, as the High Court has also issued instructions on the matter. Consequently, land grabbers and offenders will face penalties, significantly reducing forest crimes," the Minister said.

Previously, officers below the rank of Range Forest Officer (RFO) were authorised to file FIRs, which often led to case dismissals in court due to technical reasons. The new system requires digital signatures from RFOs, ensuring proper legal procedures are followed. In the initial phase, digitisation of around 40,000 cases has been completed.

SC: Can't grant custody of Subhash's son

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday denied the mother of Atul Subhash, Bengaluru techie who died by suicide in 2024, his minor son's custody saying she was "stranger to the child".

A Bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and N. Kotiswar Singh said the issue of the child's custody could be raised before the court conducting the trial.

"Sorry to say but the child is a stranger to the petitioner. If you wish, please visit the child. In case you want the custody of the child, there is a separate procedure," said the Bench.

Subhash, 34, who ended his life on December 9, 2024, left behind messages, blaming his wife and in-laws for taking the extreme step.

The top court was hearing a *habeas corpus* petition filed by Anju Devi, Subhash's mother, seeking custody of her four-year-old grandson.

Congress convention in Belagavi on Jan. 28

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) will organise a public convention named 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' in Belagavi on January 28 and central leaders of the party will attend it.

The programme, which was initially scheduled for December 27, 2024, was cancelled following the death of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The two-day programme was planned as a part of the centenary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi presiding over the Congress session in Belagavi.

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday called on AICC organisational secretary and MP K.C. Venugopal and held discussions on the event.

BJP rebels submit report on waqf row to Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The group of BJP leaders, who have raised a banner of revolt against the party's State leadership, have submitted a report on waqf land row in Karnataka to Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minorities Welfare Kiren Rijiju.

The group comprising former Ministers Ramesh Jarkiholi, Arvind Limbavali, and Kumar Bangarappa, former MP Prathap Simha and former political secretary to the Chief Minister N.R. Santhosh, among others, explained to the Minister on Monday about the fear among farmers and religious institutions that they may lose their land to the waqf board's notices.

The rebel group has embarked on a separate campaign against the eviction notices even as the party State unit had taken up a formal campaign.

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
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Date: 18,19,25&26th Jan 2025 Time: 10 am - 5pm
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Who can attend : • manager, Executives, IT Professionals, • Faculty Members • Administrators • Job Seekers • Statistics Aspirants and • Working professionals.
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GeM NOTICE
Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Madurai - 625016 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Online tenders in **Two packet system** from reputed contractors for the following works as per tender notice given in Government e-Marketing place (GeM) portal. The tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to apply for works in Madurai Division, need to be enrolled in the GeM Portal and only online tenders will be accepted.

Name of the work : Outcome based comprehensive cleaning contract at Sengottai, Tenkasi & Rajapalayam Railway Stations and colonies for a period of 730 days.
GeM Bid No. : GEM/2025/B/5780560 Dt : 05.01.2025
Place of work : SCT, TSI & RJPM - MDU DIVISION
Value of the work (Rs.) : 2,05,10,693/-
Tender closing date : 27.01.2025 11.00 hrs.

Further details are available in the detailed tender notice on website "http://www.gem.gov.in".
DEnHM / MDU

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, NEW DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION, DHANBAD- 826001
NATIONAL BIDDING / e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No:-NH/Dhanbad/12/2024-25 Dated:-04.01.2025
Application in the prescribed format from eligible consultants for Request for Proposal (RFP) for Preparation of Feasibility cum Detailed Project Report are invited for the following Project as detailed below :-

1	Name of Works	Consultancy Servicesfor DPR Preparation for Mahuda More (NH-18) to Nirsa (NH-19) Via-Lututanr (NH-218) Bypass including Land Acquisition, Forest Clearance, R&R and Utility Shifting in the state of Jharkhand under EPC mode.
2	Cost of document (Rs.)	Copy of online receipt of Non-refundable fee of Rs.5,000/- through NTRP portal- www.bharatkosh.gov.in towards Payment of cost of bid document.
3	Bid Security (Rs.)	NA
4	Time of Completion	300 Days (Including rainy season)
5	Date of Issue of Notice	Date : 04.01.2024
6	Date of Publication of Tender on website	Date : 10.01.2025 at 17.00 PM
7	Last Date for Receiving Queries	Date : 17.01.2025 upto 11.30 AM
8	Pre-Bid Conference	Date : 17.01.2025 Time 15.30 Hrs Place: Office of the Chief Engineer, NH Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
9	Application/Bid Due date	Date : 25.02.2025 upto 15.00 Hrs Through website : https://www.eprocure.gov.in only
10	Last date of submission of online challan and others documents	Date : 25.02.2025 upto time 15.00Hrs
11	Last date of submission of hard copy of challan of bidding documents, bid security and others documents/POA etc.	Date : 28.02.2025 upto time 15.00 Hrs
12	Authority & Place of opening of Bids	The Chief Engineer, NH Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi in his office at Engineering Hostel, Sector-3, Dhurwa, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
13	Time & date of opening of bids	Date 03.03.2025 at Time 15:00 Hrs Through website: https://www.eprocure.gov.in
14	Validity of bid	120 days from bid due date
15	Officer inviting bids	Executive Engineer, NH Division, Dhanbad
16	Contact no. of procurement officer	9470920944,9431518611
17	Helpline no. of e-procurement cell	06512400863, 9431647441

Note:- Further details can be seen on website https;//eprocure.gov.in
PR 343693 (Road) 24-25 (D)
Executive Engineer
N.H Division, Dhanbad

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
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(CIN – U855100JH2013SGC001276)
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Website: https://jmhidpcl.jharkhand.gov.in/
GST NO: 20AADCJ4293L2ZH, PAN NO: AADCJ4293L
Bid Ref. No.JMC/NIT-25/HHXM/02 Date: 07.01.2025
Tender for Supply of Portable Handheld X-ray Machine.
The **Managing Director,(JMHIDPCL), Ranchi** hereby invites separate **Technical Bid** and **Financial Bid** (two envelope system) through e-procurement from eligible Manufacturer/ their Authorized Dealer /Distributors/ Authorized Stockiest for health facilities of the State of Jharkhand.
The Bid documents with detailed conditions can be viewed and downloaded through website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. The eligible Bidder(s) willing to participate must be registered in e-procurement portal.

Particulars	Date & Time
Time of Completion	Within 60 days after issue of work order
Date of Publication of Bid	**08-1-2025**
Bid Submission Start Date	**24-01-2025**
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time	**30-01-2025 05:00 PM**
Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposal	**31-01-2025 05:00 PM**
Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	**5900**/- (Rupees **Online payment Gateway**)
Earnest Money Deposit	**Rs 500,000**/- (Rupees **Online payment Gateway**)
Contact/ Helpline No. of E-Procurement Cell	**+91-8709368893**
Pre-bid meeting Date & Time	**16-01-2025 at 03:00 PM**

Note: The above dates may change due to declaration of holidays. In the event of any of the dates being declared as a holiday for the office of the JMHIDPCL, the Bids will be opened on the next working day at the appointed time.
JMHIDPCL reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Bid document including quantity/ number of items to be supplied or to reject any or all Bids without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Managing Director, JMHIDPCL in this regard shall be final.
Sd/-Managing Director.
JMHIDPCL.
PR 343661 (Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd)24-25*D

Strong setback

The IED blasts in Bijapur are the act of a flailing insurgency

When an insurgent organisation is faced with a precipice, it has two options – it can either go down with a fight and pull some of its adversaries across the cliff or it can see the futility of its aims and give up the fight for good. Ideologically motivated insurgent organisations rarely choose the second option, especially those that are engaged in decades of conflict. Even those organisations such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that gave up violent insurgency and entered into an armistice find it difficult to convince factions or cadres who are committed to the violence as a means of not just rebellion but also of their existence. Since the merger of various Naxalite currents into the party in the early 2000s, the Communist Party of India (Maoist) has rarely ventured to speak of peace and ending the violent conflict except for tactical reasons. Its ideology not just talks of the utilisation of violence for its aims but also makes it central to its existence. The dastardly killing of eight security personnel and a civilian driver in an improvised explosive device blast in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Monday might seem like a sign that the potency of the CPI(Maoist) in inflicting such acts remains, and, therefore, the Maoists are a dangerous insurgent force. While there is a grain of truth to that, especially in the Abujmarh jungles and adjoining areas of the Bastar region in the State, it is also accurate to suggest that these are acts of a flailing outfit struggling to retain what was the only bastion for the left extremist organisation.

The deaths of the security personnel, who belonged to the District Reserve Guard and Bastar Fighters of the Chhattisgarh Police, are certainly a setback to the anti-Maoist operations that have picked up pace and resulted in significant deaths of Maoist cadres and other tribal people caught in the conflict. In 2024, an estimated 296 insurgents died in the operations while security forces lost 24 people and there were 80 civilian deaths To suffer eight casualties early in 2025 is a major blow and one of the severest losses for the security forces in recent years. The heavy use of explosives and the camouflaged nature of the planted IEDs suggest that the Maoists had planned this attack for a long time; the last such IED blast was in April 2023 in Dantewada. The knee-jerk reaction to this incident will be the security forces intensifying their operations to identify the culprits, potentially targeting innocent civilians. While stepping up the security campaign is inevitable considering the fact that the Maoists have refused to abjure violence, the security personnel and the government should not get carried away in retaliation and target civilians as this would play right into the hands of Maoist propaganda about state repression. As tempting as it is to wipe out the Maoist movement through military means, as the Union Home Minister has promised, it is still prudent to use civil society actors to work out a ceasefire agreement and utilise it to end the conflict.

Wayward liberal

Justin Trudeau's exit comes at the end of a period of misguided politics

Justin Trudeau's rise and fall as a global progressive icon is representative of the crisis of liberalism in general. After being in power as Prime Minister of Canada for a nine-year tenure over three terms, Mr. Trudeau announced his resignation on January 6. He had risen as the central figure of Canadian politics in 2015, leading the Liberal Party to an impressive victory in the federal election but that turned out to be the peak of his popularity. Born a child of privilege and power – his father Pierre Elliott Trudeau was Prime Minister for 15 years – Mr. Trudeau had rhetoric that was music to the ears of the global liberal elite, but his sense of the country's public mood has been poor. As his unhinged liberalism translated into unchecked policies of the federal government, Canadians turned against him and the Liberal Party collapsed into a low point in its history, with its popularity now barely touching 15%. His fiscal policy riled conservatives and moderates, and the generous immigration policy that he approved created a spurt in the population, straining housing, health care, employment opportunities and wages. His cultural liberalism was far off the centre of Canadian politics. When signs of discontent began to manifest as public protest and criticism, he resorted to strong arm state measures and dismissed his critics.

Mr. Trudeau said he hoped his exit would arrest the decline of the Liberal Party but that sounds overly optimistic. But a post-Trudeau Canada may be able to mend its ties with key partners including the United States and India. It might be months before the Liberal Party manages to install his successor or its minority government falls and a fresh election is held. The Conservative Party led by Pierre Poilievre is on an upswing and appears headed for a landslide victory, whenever elections are held, unless there is yet another turnaround in public mood. Mr. Trudeau's successor may help rescue Canada-India ties. Mr. Trudeau's compulsions to pander to Sikh extremists in Canada led to bizarre situations during his tenure. By escalating tensions with India on suspicion of Indian agents being involved in the murder of a Khalistani activist in Canada, Mr. Trudeau showed poor statesmanship and diplomacy. In being publicly judgmental and dismissive of Donald Trump in the run-up to the elections in the United States, Mr. Trudeau acted unwisely. He was ushered in with wide fanfare in 2015, but nobody seems to cry over this exit.

The rebounding of Pakistan's Afghan strategy

Vinay Kaura

Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs and Security Studies, Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice, Rajasthan, and Non-Resident Scholar, Afghanistan-Pakistan Studies, Middle East Institute, Washington DC

On December 27, 2024, the Director-General of Pakistan's Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that 383 officers and soldiers in the Pakistani security forces had lost their lives in counter-terrorism operations during 2024. He also claimed that 925 terrorists and Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists had been eliminated in approximately 60,000 intelligence-based operations. Giving a detailed account of Pakistan's generosity towards Afghanistan, he nonetheless asserted that Pakistan would not allow its citizens to be targeted by the TTP, which is alleged to enjoy safe haven in Afghanistan. It is, however, ironic given that Pakistan has itself, for long, provided logistical, military and moral support to the Afghan Taliban and Haqqani network, the two formerly insurgent-cum-terrorist groups now leading the outcaste regime in Kabul, during their fight against the West-backed Afghan government and American security forces.

Pakistan's special representative for Afghanistan Muhammad Sadiq Khan had visited Kabul in December 2024, where he had held parleys with top-ranking Taliban leaders to de-escalate the tensions between two countries. But this is likely to be a diplomatic failure as it was during his stay in Kabul that the Pakistan Air Force conducted air strikes against alleged TTP targets in eastern Paktika province on December 24. The Afghan authorities claimed that 46 people were killed in the air strikes which were apparently in response to the TTP's attack, on December 21, on a security post in South Waziristan, killing 16 Pakistani soldiers.

Getting into a deeper mess

The two countries seem to be locked in a dangerous stalemate. On December 28, Afghanistan's so-called Ministry of Defence claimed attacks on multiple locations inside Pakistan in retaliation for the air strikes. Interestingly, the ministry did not mention the fact that Pakistan's territory was targeted, but, instead, chose to highlight that the strikes were executed beyond the 'hypothetical line' – a term used by the Afghan government to refer to the Durand Line. These incidents serve to highlight the limits of Pakistan's ability to exercise its influence over its former proxy by virtue of either coercive methods or diplomatic persuasion.

Pakistan's Afghan strategy has now become a victim of its own success. Instead of evolving as a "strategic depth" for Pakistan, the return of the Taliban has made Afghanistan a "strategic ditch" for Pakistan's security establishment, which seems to be getting deeper and deeper with no sight of escape. The tit-for-tat killing frenzy has dangerous implications as Pakistan's already tense relationship with Afghanistan has plunged into a deep crisis.

Pakistan has been facing significant challenges from the TTP which shares many ideological affinities with the Afghan Taliban, leading to a growing perception that both constitute the sides of the same coin. Against a backdrop of inflamed passions and growing suspicion, Pakistan has been under constant public pressure to demonstrate retaliatory action. But nothing could be more ironic and ridiculous than the entreaties from a section of the Pakistani government to Washington to come to its rescue. In response to the deadly attack on a military camp in Pakistan in December 2023, claimed by the Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan (TJP), Balochistan's caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai, suggested the Pakistan government propose offering U.S. "drone bases to target militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan". Other measures included "special targeted operations, air strikes, border closure with Afghanistan, return of Afghan refugees, anti-TTA [Tehrik-e-Taliban Afghanistan] political opposition gathering in Islamabad." However, Mr. Achakzai later deleted this controversial tweet. When Pakistan's Army chief, General Asim Munir, had callously asserted in January 2024 that, "When it comes to the safety and security of every single Pakistani, the whole of Afghanistan can be damned", it merely fed the narrative that Pakistan's security establishment is largely ignorant of the subtleties required to persuade the Afghan Taliban by means other than firepower. It is another matter that in a conciliatory tone afterwards, Gen. Munir pleaded with Afghan rulers not to prioritise the TTP "over their long-standing and benevolent brother Islamic country".

> The return of the Taliban has made Afghanistan a 'strategic ditch' for Pakistan's security establishment

When it comes to Afghanistan's messy political dynamics, Pakistan's ruling elite has been living in a fantasy land, ignoring Afghanistan's notoriety as a 'graveyard of empires'. Instead of trying to extract Pakistan from the Afghan conflict after 9/11, Rawalpindi overstretched its involvement, chasing a wild dream of unbreakable Pakistan-Afghan alliance against India. An explosion was bound to happen, but Pakistan was extremely slow to react to the gathering threats. Perhaps the only surprise is that this explosion came out of the Taliban-led Kabul, which was supposed to be a pliant regime. It is shocking that Pakistan got the Afghan Taliban-TTP nexus utterly wrong.

The creator of its own terror problem

The terrorism problem that Pakistan faces is one that is of its own making. It is Pakistan's Afghan policy and the unnecessary obsession about a threat from India which should be blamed for fuelling jihadist extremism and terrorism. Pakistan has been pursuing an ill-considered policy of supporting violent extremist groups that are seen capable of hurting India and keeping Kabul under its thumb. It is not that Pakistan's military was oblivious to Afghan Taliban's intransigence. Rather, it thought of it as an expedient chess piece in the great game against India. Imran Khan, Pakistan's former Prime Minister, in prison for defying the powerful military, had compared the Taliban's triumphant return with Afghans having "broken the shackles of slavery". Now, the excitement heralding the Taliban's recapture of Kabul has been surpassed in intensity by the inexorable realpolitik, interspersed with the ideological rigidities of the Taliban movement. The unsurprising outcome is confusion and paralysis for those in Pakistan who are charged with understanding how the military and political aspects of their response should fit together.

A pushback

The tension in the Afghanistan-Pakistan relations goes well beyond cross-border terrorism. No Afghan regime has ever accepted the 1893 Durand Line as a legitimate border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. And, Kabul claims Pakistan's Pashtun territories near the border. The problem with international boundaries in conflict zones is that they are not red lines inscribed on stone. After all, it was Rawalpindi which was complicit with the mujahideen in violating the very sanctity of the Durand Line during the so-called Afghan jihad against the red army.

The Afghan Taliban's fierce opposition to border fencing has come as a shock to Pakistan which was hopeful that the return of the Taliban would also bury the demand for a 'greater Pashtunistan' – an idea of creating a Pashtun homeland by uniting the frontier region of Pakistan with Afghanistan. The Taliban have not done anything to suppress Pashtun nationalism with Islamist ideology, fuelling Pashtun nationalist sentiments against Pakistan. Of course, Islamabad's 'Pashtunistan' puzzle is not new, but given the vicious potential of the militants that Pakistani security forces are now facing, the stakes of resolving the puzzle are much higher. If not meant as an intentionally sarcastic snipe, the Afghan Taliban's disdainful refusal to treat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a Pakistani province is tantamount to calling for Pashtun unity, which is going to exacerbate Pakistan's fears about Afghan irredentism. The reality of confronting irredentism is often far messier. In all probability, the Afghan border security personnel will continue to challenge Pakistani attempts to fence the border.

Given the alarming rise in terrorism being blamed on the Afghan Taliban's inaction, Pakistan is reluctant to unilaterally recognise the new regime in Kabul as it had done previously in early 1990s. The magnitude of the challenge posed by the TTP to the legitimacy and authority of the Pakistani state, along with the utter disregard of the Afghan Taliban to Pakistan's persistent demands for credible action against the TTP, may have left Rawalpindi with diminishing options to create the terms for political engagement with the Taliban-led Afghanistan.

The imperilled life of the district journalist in India

Anand Pradhan

Professor of Journalism at the Indian Institute Of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal, Odisha

The brutal murder of an independent young journalist, Mukesh Chandrakar, in Chhattisgarh, has once again highlighted the threats to life and the precarious nature of journalism at the district and mofussil levels. Journalists at the grass-root level in many parts of the country face similar challenges. Police and other reports suggest that Mukesh was murdered by a local contractor who was enraged by the journalist's reports questioning the quality of a road built by the contractor. This case brings to mind the killing, in 1988, of another young journalist, Umesh Dobhal, from Uttarakhand's Garhwal town, who was allegedly murdered by the powerful and politically connected liquor mafia that was angered by his exposés.

Limitations of the law

Mukesh's murder has also exposed the irony that Chhattisgarh is probably the first and only State to have enacted a law, namely The Chhattisgarh Protection of Media Persons Act, 2023, to prevent violence and ensure the safety and the security of journalists while carrying out their duties. This case shows that laws alone are not enough to save independent and courageous journalists such as Mukesh, who was actively reporting from Bastar, Chhattisgarh, and exposing wrongdoing and corruption in developmental work in the region.

There is no doubt that district-level or mofussil journalists such as Mukesh and Umesh play a crucial role in bringing "unseen and unheard" stories from the hinterland. They are truly the "voice of the voiceless" as they belong to local communities, understand their pain, grievances, and struggles, and are deeply moved by stories of suffering and deprivation. Most of these journalists are not formally trained in journalism schools. Yet, they pursue their journalism out of a passion and a commitment to raising local issues and exposing corruption and wrongdoing in developmental work.

Despite their dedication, the nature of their job and working conditions for most mofussil journalists are precarious. Many journalists work as stringers or retainers, with no job security, minimal and undignified salaries, and extremely hostile working conditions. But they often provide vital leads and act as local guides and facilitators for journalists from the metro cities and big media houses who occasionally visit these places to cover stories. However, they rarely receive bylines, recognition, or respect for their contributions. Like their stories, they too are mostly "unseen and unheard".

> They play a crucial role as watchdogs and in uncovering the abuse of power, inviting the ire of powerful vested interests

The lifeline

However, one cannot imagine flourishing regional language journalism without these stringers and retainers who feed the regional, district, and local pages and bulletins with their stories. In contrast, most stories in mainstream language newspapers and news channels revolve around routine crime reports, press releases, press conferences, or sound bites issued by local administrations and politicians. Occasionally, some manage to cover civic issues and local community problems.

Unfortunately, the space for such stories in mainstream language news media is shrinking due to various factors, including pressure from local advertisers and increasing dependence on and alignment with State governments. It is well known that a significant portion of advertising revenue for these outlets comes from the same powerful and vested interests and their nexus, which have been thriving on the misappropriation of developmental funds.

This situation has led many young journalists such as Mukesh to pursue independent journalism, leveraging the opportunities provided by technology and platforms such as YouTube, social media, and a few independent digital news sites. Unsurprisingly, some of the most hard-hitting, critical, and investigative stories now appear on these platforms, which irritate and anger the powerful nexus of contractors, criminals, officers, and politicians at the district and regional levels. This nexus, mentioned in the report of the N.N. Vohra Committee – it was constituted by the Union government in the 1990s to investigate the criminalisation of politics – remains powerful and active, particularly in resource-rich States such as Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. It is no surprise that the main accused in Mukesh's murder is a politically ambitious contractor.

The end note

But the role of independent journalists such as Mukesh Chandrakar at the district level is crucial – they are the watchdogs for developmental projects and social welfare schemes. As routine and limited reporting by mainstream news media at the district level often avoids covering these issues in a critical way, it is journalists such as Mukesh who take huge risks to expose the powerful nexus operating at the grassroot level. Their independent, investigative, and critical reporting challenges this nexus, ensuring transparency and accountability in development projects and welfare schemes, and empowering local communities.

The presence of independent and critical journalists such as Mukesh must be encouraged and protected, particularly at the local levels where accountability mechanisms are often weaker. Journalists play a crucial role in uncovering the abuse of power, but their work frequently attracts the ire of powerful vested interests, resulting in threats, attacks, and even murder. The impunity enjoyed by such attackers not only endangers the lives of journalists but also fosters a culture of fear and self-censorship, undermining investigative reporting. This erosion of press freedom jeopardises the public's right to know, weakening democratic institutions and leaving citizens vulnerable to unchecked corruption and injustice.

It is high time that we ensure that Mukesh Chandrakar's sacrifice does not go in vain.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Governor walks out

The friction between the Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N. Ravi, and the Tamil Nadu government is disheartening. Both the State's invocation to Tamil and the National Anthem symbolise unity and respect: one is cultural and the other is national. They should not be treated as conflicting. Public walkouts and confrontations between constitutional authorities weaken democratic values. Let us focus on harmony, not headlines.

E.A. Sarayu Berkavin,
Bengaluru

The Governor has conducted himself well in keeping with the dignity and the glory of the office he occupies despite the criticism heaped on him by local politicians. Media criticism is uncalled for. The State government needs to be severely chastised for its unconstitutional and irresponsible conduct.

Ravi Mathur,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

It would have been a miracle had his excellency, known for his obduracy, read out the customary address and remained in the House. This is the third consecutive year where he has aired his odd views. Does the Governor not deserve a pat on his back?

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Justin Trudeau resigns

The downfall of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was primarily due to internal political strife. But it may redirect India-Canadian relations, when there is a successor and also after Donald Trump assumes office.

R.S. Narula,
Patiala, Punjab

More flexibility, but also greater challenges

Milind Kumar Sharma

Teaches at the Department of Production and Industrial Engineering, MBM University, Jodhpur. Views are personal

The latest guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC) herald a transformative shift in higher education in India. Among other reforms, the UGC has introduced an accelerated degree programme and an extended degree programme for undergraduate students, which will allow them to complete their degrees either earlier or later than the standard duration.

Advantages and challenges

This new paradigm aims to create a globally competitive educational framework that allows students greater autonomy and flexibility in charting out their academic trajectory. In a rigid education system such as India's, this is particularly revolutionary.

While an accelerated degree programme will be advantageous for students who are keen to join the workforce quickly or who wish to gain early professional experience or save money on tuition fees, the extended degree programme will allow students the leeway to explore a broader range of subjects, undertake internships, engage in research projects, travel and learn new skills, and balance academic pursuits with personal and professional commitments. As the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, advocates for a multidisciplinary approach to learning, this approach could produce graduates who are not only proficient in their chosen fields, but are also equipped with more soft skills, creative skills, and ideas for innovation.

In addition, by aligning the structure of undergraduate education with international standards, the reforms aim to create greater mobility for Indian students, both within India and abroad. The flexible credit system introduced under these reforms will allow students to progress at their own pace. They can tailor their academic experiences to their specific needs, interests, and future career goals. This autonomy is important for the students.

However, there are challenges. The accelerated format raises questions about the depth and rigour of the education provided to students. If students are taught the same curriculum within a shorter period of time, they may have a superficial understanding of key concepts; this could compromise educational outcomes. In contrast, students who opt for the extended degree programme may lack academic urgency. Some may take longer than necessary to complete their studies, which would diminish the value of the degree.

Adapting to the new structure

It is especially difficult for technical education to adapt to the new structure. Engineering programmes demand a deep understanding of both theory and practice. While the push for interdisciplinary education is beneficial for students, engineering programmes are traditionally structured to provide students with a specialised education that prepares them for specific career paths.

Accelerated engineering degrees could risk oversimplifying technical learning. Engineering degrees require an in-depth study of subjects such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, and advanced engineering principles. Compressing this content could reduce the time available for practical projects, lab work, tutorial sessions, and project work and internships, which are crucial for developing technical competencies required in the field. Engineering students are often required to solve real-world problems, and any pressure to finish their studies quickly may hinder their ability to master problem-solving techniques that are integral to their profession.

Conversely, while the extended degree option in engineering could provide students with more opportunities for specialisation, research, and practical experience, it may also be more of a financial burden for students and could discourage those who already face economic constraints.

The accelerated and extended degree programmes herald a transformative shift in Indian education but also raise many questions

Practical issues

The transition to accelerated and extended degree formats requires substantial restructuring of curricula, teaching methods, and approval from competent bodies of universities and administrative systems. This could be daunting for universities that already face resource constraints. Further, the shift towards greater digitalisation in education, which is likely to accompany these reforms, could deepen the digital divide.

The introduction of accelerated and extended degrees necessitates robust systems for tracking student progress, evaluation, managing credit transfers, and ensuring the appropriate recognition of academic achievements. Institutions will need to develop sophisticated administrative frameworks to manage these complexities.

The equity implications of these reforms are also concerning. Students from underprivileged backgrounds may struggle to navigate the new system without adequate guidance and support and may even drop out if they are not able to catch up with the rest.

The adaptation of faculty to these new pedagogical models is another potential obstacle. Teachers will need to undergo professional development to adjust to the demands of flexible, interdisciplinary curricula. The success of these reforms hinges not only on the students' ability to navigate the new systems but also on the capacity of educators to support them effectively.

If these challenges are addressed with strategic planning, adequate investment, timely recruitment of faculty and staff, and a commitment to inclusivity, these reforms could lay the foundation for a more dynamic higher education system, which is better aligned to market needs, and would help India realise the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Politics on the menu

A dinner meeting in Karnataka has rekindled talk on factions

STATE OF PLAY

Nagesh Prabhu
nagesh.p@thehindu.co.in

On January 2, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and four Dalit Ministers met for dinner when Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar was abroad. The meeting highlighted once again factionalism in the ruling Congress in Karnataka.

The main subject of discussion at dinner was apparently the implementation of a specific reform mentioned in the Congress's Udaipur Declaration, which is the principle of 'one person, one post'. Given the hints and the buzz that Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar would be at the helm for two-and-a-half years each, of the full five-year term, this debate was a veiled attempt to corner Mr. Shivakumar, who also heads the State Congress.

Ministers loyal to the Chief Minister, mainly Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, who is a strong claimant to the post of president of Karnataka Congress, have renewed the demand for applying the principle.

With the Congress government completing two years this May, and Mr. Shivakumar gunning for the post of Chief Minister, there is pressure being built on him to step down as State party head as he also holds two important portfolios – Water Resources, and Bengaluru Development.

Differences between the loyalists of the two leaders reportedly surfaced again when Mr. Shivakumar changed the name of the party's convention in Hassan on December 5, 2024, to 'Jana Kalyana Samavesha (public welfare rally)' from 'Siddaramaiah Swabhimani Janandolana Samavesha (Siddaramaiah self-respect rally)'. The Chief Minister was keen on using the convention to refurbish his image, which has been dented by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority scam, currently under investigation.

Mr. Siddaramaiah's loyalists are keen to have someone they like as Congress State president. Congress General Secretary (Organisation) and MP K.C. Venugopal announced at the time of government formation in 2023 that Mr. Shivakumar would continue as State Congress chief only till the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. To justify their demand, Mr. Rajanna recalled the 1979 precedent when the then Chief Minister, D. Devaraj Urs, was stripped of the party post after refusing to comply with the 'one person, one post' policy. They believe that the appointment of a new State Congress chief would put a break on the "commanding" power of Mr. Shivakumar, who, they allege, is now holding party programmes without holding consultations with leaders.

There is resentment that Mr. Shivakumar single-handedly managed the celebrations on December 26, 2024, to mark the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi presiding over the Congress session in Belagavi. There are also allegations that he directed the Belagavi police to arrest BJP MLC C.T. Ravi for making "derogatory" remarks against the Women and Child Development Minister. This is said to have angered senior Ministers, particularly Home Minister Dr. Parameshwara and Mr. Jarkiholi. Dr. Parameshwara is also reportedly miffed with Mr. Shivakumar's "interference" in Mr. Ravi's case and has apparently sought a change in his portfolio.

Differences among top leaders are also reportedly stalling appointments of directors to many government-owned boards/corporations. While Mr. Siddaramaiah was keen on appointing legislators for these posts, his Deputy has been insisting on prioritising party workers. The appointment of presidents to about 20 District Congress Committees has also been delayed.

Mr. Siddaramaiah's loyalists argue that if Mr. Shivakumar is relieved of the party post, it would help expedite the process of appointment of directors to boards/corporations and presidents to DCCs, who will not be beholden to him. They say the new party president would devote his time to strengthening the organisation ahead of polls to rural and urban local bodies.

Mr. Shivakumar also caused a stir when he said in an interview with a TV channel that "some formula" between him and the Chief Minister on the change of guard had been worked out. After Mr. Siddaramaiah asserted that there was no such formula, Mr. Shivakumar withdrew the statement.

The dominant view among Ministers is that Mr. Siddaramaiah, who has fashioned himself as the champion of AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes, and Dalits), should continue in office. This means that Mr. Shivakumar does not stands much of a chance in occupying the top job.

Maoist strongholds are shrinking, but deadly threats persist

With nine security personnel killed in the first week of 2025, the toll has already surpassed a third of last year's total

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Nitika Francis

On Monday, eight security personnel were killed when Maoists blew up their vehicle with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh. While the insurgents have faced a series of setbacks in recent years, and their geographical influence has sharply contracted over the last decade, the latest attack is a stark reminder that their firepower remains a threat in areas where they are still active.

While there have been isolated attacks that have claimed the lives of security forces in Chhattisgarh, no single incident in the past 600 days has claimed the lives of eight or more security personnel. The last deadly incident was in April 2023, when an IED blast in Dantewada killed 10 District Reserve Guard personnel and a civilian driver. The most devastating incident before that occurred in April 2021, when 22 personnel were killed in an encounter in Sukma.

Chart 1 shows the deaths of security personnel in individual incidents since 2000 in Chhattisgarh. The April 2010 attack in Dantewada, which claimed the lives of 74 Central Reserve Police Force personnel and two police officers, remains the deadliest single incident for security forces in their operation against the insurgents. The second biggest incident took place in March 2007 when hundreds of Maoists attacked a remote police station and killed over 50 security personnel. Individual incidents that saw massive casualties have significantly decreased over the past decade in the State. This is why the latest attack is significant.

In recent months, many left-wing extremists have been killed in "encounters", primarily in Chhattisgarh but also in other States, as paramilitary forces and State police have intensified their operations. Deaths among civilians and security forces have remained limited. **Chart 2** depicts fatalities among civilians, security forces, and insurgents over the years across all States in incidents involving Maoists. Last year was the third deadliest year for the forces, as 296 insurgents were killed. The deadliest year for the insurgents was 2006, when 343 were killed.

In contrast, 24 security personnel died in Maoist incidents last year, the second-lowest number since 2000. The year 2022 was the worst year for the forces, as 15 lives were lost. However, this year has already crossed one-third of last year's total, with nine personnel dead so far.

Most of the recent incidents were concentrated in south Chhattisgarh, particularly the Bastar region, possibly the Maoists' last stronghold. **Table 3** highlights the district-wise share of left-wing extremism-related deaths in Chhattisgarh over five-year periods. Nearly 30% of all such deaths between 2020 and 2025 occurred in Bijapur. Over 65% of the remaining fatalities were reported from other districts in the Bastar region, including Narayanpur, Sukma, Dantewada, Kanker, and Bastar.

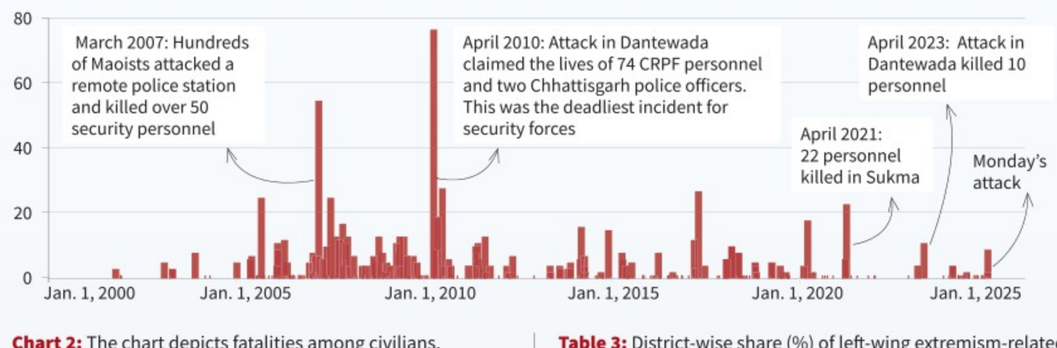
Chart 4 displays State-wise left-wing extremism-related deaths since 2000. In 2024, nearly 80% of all fatalities occurred in Chhattisgarh. Incidents in the forested districts of Andhra Pradesh/Telangana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, and West Bengal saw a significant decline.

The geographical contraction of Maoist influence has been largely driven by tribal communities, who have increasingly distanced themselves from the cause. This shift is reflected in the sharp decline in NOTA (None of the Above) votes during the 2023 elections in Chhattisgarh, with only 1.3% opting for it. Historically, regions with higher NOTA vote shares have often had areas that were greatly affected by left-wing extremism.

A clear and present danger

The data for the charts were sourced from the South Asia Terrorism Portal

Chart 1: The chart illustrates the deaths of security personnel resulting from individual incidents since 2000 in Chhattisgarh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March 2007: Hundreds of Maoists attacked a remote police station and killed over 50 security personnel
April 2010: Attack in Dantewada claimed the lives of 74 CRPF personnel and two Chhattisgarh police officers. This was the deadliest incident for security forces
April 2021: 22 personnel killed in Sukma
April 2023: Attack in Dantewada killed 10 personnel
Monday's attack
Jan. 1, 2000
Jan. 1, 2005
Jan. 1, 2010
Jan. 1, 2015
Jan. 1, 2020
Jan. 1, 2025

Chart 2: The chart depicts fatalities among civilians, security forces, and insurgents over the years across all States in incidents involving Maoists

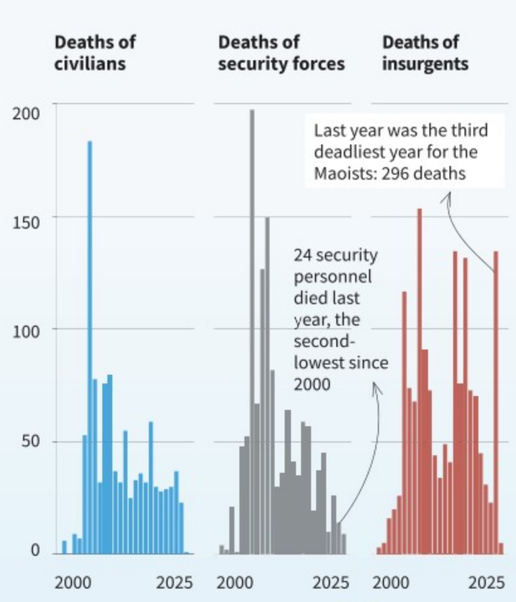
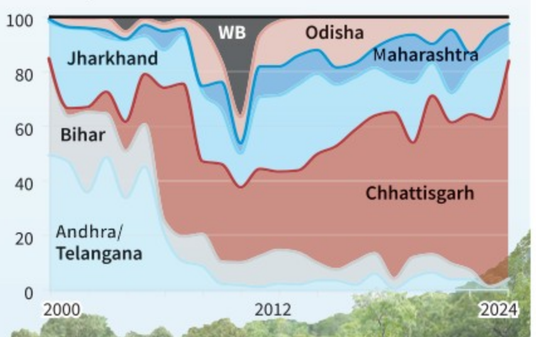


Table 3: District-wise share (%) of left-wing extremism-related deaths in Chhattisgarh over five-year periods

District	2000-04	2005-10	2011-14	2015-20	2021-25
Bijapur	4.1	24.1	28.6	24.3	29.2
Narayanpur	0.0	5.7	6.2	8.6	22.8
Sukma	0.0	0.0	23.8	33.9	18.8
Dantewada	56.0	50.5	19.7	12.7	13.3
Kanker	3.7	6.2	4.7	7.2	10.2
Bastar	21.6	4.8	8.0	3.9	1.2
Others	14.7	8.7	9.0	9.4	4.5

Chart 4: The chart shows left-wing extremism-related deaths, State-wise, between 2000 and 2024



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1975

U.S. fleet moves as NLF captures provincial capital

Saigon, Jan. 7: The United States ordered a Navy task force, including the world's biggest aircraft carrier, the 'USS Enterprise', to sail towards South Vietnam to-day, as the National Liberation Front (NLF) troops took full control of the provincial capital Phuoc Binh, U.S. diplomatic sources said.

The Pentagon denied that the Enterprise and its 10 escort vessels intended to sail into Vietnamese waters although a spokesman acknowledged the huge vessel was on a course in the general direction of southern South Vietnam.

The diplomatic sources said there appeared to be no imminent plan for U.S. warplanes to intervene in the Vietnam war.

But they said the Enterprise, two guided missile cruisers, six destroyers and two destroyer escorts were ordered to the general Vietnam area because of the heavy communist assaults at Phuoc Binh.

The diplomatic sources said the 11-ship flotilla would be operational by 8 a.m. Saigon time (05-30 IST) Wednesday.

The Giai Phong Press agency, meanwhile, charged in a broadcast monitored in Saigon today that the U.S. carrier 'Coral Sea' already was conducting operations off the South Vietnamese coast.

GPP did not say where the 'Coral Sea' was operating. It also made no charges that U.S. planes were flying over Vietnam.

The actual whereabouts of the 'Coral Sea' could not be learnt in Saigon to-day, although one source said last week the ship was "in the general Vietnam area".

Meanwhile, the National Liberation Front forces widened their territorial control deeper southward into provinces north and east of Saigon to-day by capturing their first provincial capital in three years and threatening a second one by overrunning a mountain base camp guarding it, the South Vietnamese government said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1925

A new "Emden"

Berlin, Jan 7: The new German cruiser *Emden*, of 6,000 tons capacity and 29 knots speed and equipped with 8.15 centimetre guns, was launched at Wilhemshaven. It is named in memory of the famous cruiser sunk by Sydeny.

From Page One

Delhi votes on Feb. 5 in crucial Assembly polls

Of the 70 seats in Delhi, 58 are general and 12 reserved.

More than 13,000 polling stations will be set up in Delhi, Mr. Kumar said.

The CEC said that bypolls due in two other Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir – Budgam and Nagrota – would be held later because of heavy snowfall there. "We have time till April and we will complete those elections before that," he said.

Mr. Kumar said that bypolls were due in two more constituencies – Basirhat Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal and Visavadar Assembly seat in Gujarat, However, as there were pending election petitions in both cases, the by-polls have to wait.

GDP growth projected to fall to four-year low

The NSO's first advance estimates of GDP growth for the year, used for framing the Union Budget for the next fiscal to be presented on February 1, suggest reviving the economy's engines back to the 7%-plus growth recorded in the preceding three years will be the key challenge for Budget 2025-26 to address.

India's GDP growth had slipped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% in the July to September 2024 quarter. Following this, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had pared its growth projection for the full year to 6.6% from 7.2% estimated earlier. Subsequently, the Finance Ministry also reframed its growth expectation for 2024-25 from 'a range of 6.5% to 7%' to 'around 6.5%'.

Crisil chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi attributed the expected deceleration in 2024-25 to the sharp slowdown in the second quarter, lower fiscal stimulus, high interest rates and stricter lending norms.

'Sluggish investment'

"The decline in government capital expenditure, a key driver of post-pandemic recovery, during the second quarter, is unlikely to be compensated for in the rest of the fiscal. Further, private sector investment remains sluggish despite favourable conditions," he said, noting that the NSO's projection of a dip in investment growth offers 'little surprise' in these circumstances.

On the expenditure side, private final consumption spends are expected to expand 7.3% from 4% in 2023-24, indicating the NSO expects households to loosen their purse strings between October to March. Government final consumption expenditure is also seen rising 4.1% from 2.5% last year.

Construction GVA growth is pegged at 8.6%, from 9.9% in 2023-24 and another key employment-generating sector – trade, hotels, communication and services related to broadcasting – is estimated to grow 5.8% as opposed to 6.4% last year.

The NSO advised those interpreting the advance estimates to bear in mind that they are likely to undergo revisions thanks to improved data coverage and revision in input data made by source agencies.

Madhavi Arora, lead economist at Emkay Global Financial Services, echoed the sentiment, stating advance estimates have a short shelf life. "They are largely an extrapolation of indicators available till November and are, thus, susceptible to significant revisions," she said.

Search on for trapped coal miners in Assam

Mr. Sarma said the mine, *prima facie*, appeared to be illegal and the Umrangso police had been asked to investigate the incident.

"Punish Nunisa was arrested in connection with a case registered by the police under Sections 3(5)/105 BNS, read with Section 21(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957," the Chief Minister said.

The Navy team flew from Visakhapatnam after the Army, Assam Rifles, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, and police personnel made a recce of the mine in a jungle at 3 Kilo, about 30 kilometres from the nearest police station in Umrangso, in the morning.

Officials said the water level in the mine, about 20 feet in radius and 300 feet in depth, rose to more than 100 feet when the rescue operations started in the morning.

The Chief Minister released the names of the trapped miners on Monday night. They are: Ganga Bahadur Shreth (38) from Nepal, Sanjit Sarkar (35) from West Bengal, Hussain Ali (30), Jakir Hussain (38), Sarpa Barman (46), Mustafa Seikh (44), Khusi Mohan Rai (57), Lijan Magar (26) and Sarat Goyary (37), all from Assam.

Coal mine mishaps are quite frequent in the northeast.

In January 2024, a fire in a coal mine in Nagaland's Wokha district left six workers dead and four others injured. In May of the same year, a mine in Assam's Tinsukia district caved in, killing three miners.

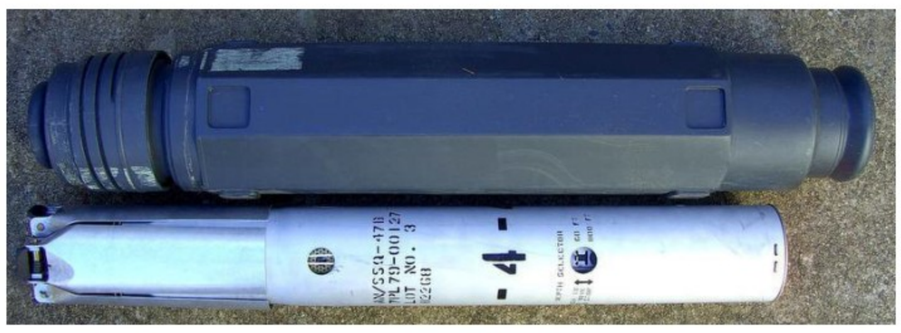
In September 2022, three coal miners were killed in the Tinsukia district by inhaling suspected toxic gas.

The biggest coal mine disaster in about a decade was the death of 15 miners in a flooded rat-hole coal mine in Meghalaya's Ksan area on December 13, 2018.

India, U.S. to jointly manufacture interoperable sonobuoys for Navy

These undersea instruments are niche equipment effective in detecting submarines lurking deep in the oceans; both countries are cooperating on high-end technology amid rapid expansion of Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI



State of the art: Discussions are on between Ultra Maritime and Bharat Dynamics Ltd. on a partnership for the co-production of sonobuoys . WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

In a significant development, India and the United States announced cooperation on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys for undersea domain awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy, a high-end technology that allows tracking submarines in the deep seas and oceans.

This is the latest in a series of cooperation measures between the two countries as both grow wary of the rapid expansion of Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

"Welcoming the advancement of discussions between Ultra Maritime (UM) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to enhance undersea domain awareness through a first-of-its-kind partnership on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys in support of the U.S. and Indian defence industrial bases," said a fact sheet titled 'The U.S. and India committed to strengthening strategic technology partnership" issued on Tuesday at the end of U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan's visit to India on the aspect of deepening defence innovation and industrial cooperation.

Mr. Sullivan, on his final trip to the region as NSA, held a capstone meeting with his Indian counterpart, Ajit Doval.

"In line with the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) launched in May 2022, the Ultra Maritime and BDL teams will also pursue new sonobuoy technologies to optimise their acoustic performance in the unique environment of the Indian Ocean, enabling wide area search through bespoke multi-static active solutions," Ultra Maritime, a U.S.-based world leader in the design and production of undersea warfare capabilities, said in a statement.

They will jointly manufacture and supply sonobuoys for the Indian Navy as per U.S. Navy standards, with production split across the U.S. and India, in accordance with "Make in India" principles, it stated.

"The announcement today by NSA Jake Sullivan reflects Ultra Maritime's commitment to the Indian Navy in partnering with BDL for production and delivery of world-class sonobuoys, and our resolute commitment to continue to develop forward leaning solutions to unique undersea challenges," said Ultra Maritime CEO Carlo Zaffanella in the statement.

BDL Chairman Commodore A. Madhavarao (retd.) said BDL was completely aligned with the Indian Navy to meet the operational demand for 'Make in India' sonobuoys and committed to joint production with Ultra Maritime in Visakhapatnam.

Highlighting the aspect of interoperability, a key focus area, Rear Admiral Mark Kenny (retd.), senior vice-president at Ultra Maritime for strategy and business development, said: "The UM sonobuoys co-produced in India are interchangeable and interoperable between U.S. Navy, Indian Navy and allied P-8, MH-60R and the MQ-9B Sea Guardian aircraft."

Significant move

This is particularly significant as India has over the years acquired a series of military platforms from the U.S. that are also operated by other countries in the region, especially Australia and Japan, all four of which comprise the Quad grouping and also hold the Malabar naval exercise.

The Indian Navy operates the P-8I long range maritime patrol aircraft, is inducting the MH-60R multi-role helicopters and has two MQ-9A armed High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems on lease and signed a $3.5 billion contract in October 2024 for 31 MQ-9B - 15 Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy and 16 Sky Guardians, eight each for the Army and Air Force, with deliveries to begin from January 2029. After Maritime Domain Awareness, UDA has emerged as a key focus area for India and among the Quad.

SC grants medical bail to godman Asaram Bapu

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday granted interim bail to 86-year-old godman Asaram Bapu on medical grounds till the end of March, while restricting him from meeting his followers in a group.

A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Rajesh Bindal passed the order while disposing of his plea for suspension of sentence.

The petition filed by Asaram, through advocates Rajesh Inamdar and Shashwat Anand, had said his health was precarious and rapidly deteriorating.

Senior advocate Devadutt Kamat, for Asaram, said that his client's conviction was based solely on the testimony of the survivor. They alleged inconsistencies in the prosecution's version.

However, the Bench restricted itself from entering into the domain of the merits of the case and focussed solely on submissions made regarding Asaram's health. Mr. Kamat said Asaram had "suffered a series of heart attacks and his coronary angiography report of January 14 showed arterial blockages of up to 99%".

Research and development has no relevance if it does not meet timelines: IAF chief

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh

Research and development loses relevance if it does not meet timelines, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh said on Tuesday, pointing out that the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was conceived in 1984 but today in 2025, the first 40 aircraft were still not available.

His comments come amid the crisis the IAF is facing, in terms of depleting strength in fighter jets and long delays in development and delivery of indigenous fighter aircraft.

"R&D loses its relevance in case it is not able to meet timelines. Technology delayed is technology denied. There has to be an increased aptitude for acceptance of risks involved and failures in R&D. There is an amount of risk inherent to R&D – and we should cater to absorb it [to] a certain degree," Air Chief Marshal Singh said while speaking at the 21st Subroto Mukerjee seminar organised by the Centre for Air Power Studies.

"*Atmanirbharta* will come at a cost and we should accept it – we may have to spend more and buy at a higher rate if required – amortising of the R&D part and limited numbers will push the cost up – but will give the much needed self-reliance."

"The world today is in a precarious position dominated by conflicts and contests. We have our own security concerns on the western and northern borders with increased militarisation by China and Pakistan. China is investing heavily in its air force – the recent unveiling of its new stealth aircraft is a case in point," he said.

Referring to the LCA programme that has seen development and manufacturing delays, he said: "Actually, we should go back to 1984 when we first conceived that aircraft. First aircraft flew in 2001 - 17 years. Then the induction started another 15 years later, in 2016. Today, we are in 2025, I do not have the first 40 aircraft also. This is the production capability." "We need to do something. I am very convinced that we need to get some private players in. We need to have competition, we need to have multiple sources available so that people are wary of losing orders... Otherwise, things will not change."

Bharatpol to aid in nabbing fugitive criminals 'wherever they hide': Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with CBI Director Praveen Sood at the launch of the 'Bharatpol' portal in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday inaugurated the Bharatpol portal, which aims to provide police and security agencies in India with a seamless connect to Interpol, the international police organisation.

He said criminals committing crimes in India and fleeing to other countries had evaded the reach of Indian laws for years. However, with the implementation of modern systems such as Bharatpol, such criminals could now be brought within the ambit of justice.

Mr. Shah said the new criminal law enabled the prosecution of fugitive criminals through trials in absentia and, with the capabilities of Bharatpol, fugitives could be brought to justice "wherever they hide".

He said the new law would simplify the process of extraditing convicted criminals to India.

He urged the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take the lead in implementing Bharatpol and ensuring widespread training in its use at the grassroots level. The portal has been developed by the CBI.

The five key modules of Bharatpol – Connect, Interpol notices, References, Broadcast, and Resources – provide a technological platform to support all Indian law enforcement agencies, the Home Minister said.

He said that through Connect, all Indian law enforcement agencies would essentially function as an extension of Interpol's National Central Bureau (NCB-New Delhi). The system would ensure quick and structured transmission of requests for Interpol notices, enabling a scientific mechanism to swiftly locate criminals from India and across the globe.

Congress will move to new headquarters on Jan. 15

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress announced on Tuesday that the party would move to its new headquarters at 9A Kotla Road in New Delhi on January 15.

The new All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters, named after India's first woman Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, will be formally inaugurated by the Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Sonia Gandhi, in the presence of party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, the party said in a statement.

Court dismisses plea against judge's impeachment motion

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Justice Shekhar Yadav made several veiled attacks on Muslims in a speech last month

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) petition against the impeachment motion submitted in the Upper House of Parliament over the communal speech delivered by Justice Shekhar Yadav at an event organised by the legal cell of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP).

A Bench of Justice Attau Rahman Masoodi and Justice Subhash Vidyarthi dismissed the petition filed by lawyer Ashok Pandey, stating that the cardinal principle within which a PIL plea is entertained is for representation of the cause of vulnerable sections of people. "However, we do not see that the cause espoused in the present writ petition relates to any vulnerable section of people. Thus, on the touchstone of maintainability, the present PIL does not qualify the very test of initiation of proceedings on its threshold," the court noted.

Justice Yadav, in a speech delivered on December 8, made several veiled attacks on Muslims while talking about Uniform Civil Code. He said the country would run as per the wishes of the 'majority'. Without referring to the Muslims, he asked how would their children be kind and tolerant when animals were being slaughtered in front of them.

Soon after the video of the speech went viral, the Supreme Court had asked for a detailed report on the matter by the Allahabad High Court.

The speech drew widespread criticism. Days after his speech, a six-member delegation of Opposition MPs in the Rajya Sabha submitted a motion seeking impeachment of Justice Yadav. He was accused of engaging in "hate speech" and "incitement to communal disharmony" in violation of the Constitution.

SC to hear same-sex marriage review pleas

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A new five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice B.R. Gavai is scheduled to hear on Thursday petitions seeking a review of an October 2023 judgment that refused to legalise same-sex marriage.

The other judges on the Bench comprise Justices Surya Kant, B.V. Nagarathna, P.S. Narasimha, and Dipankar Datta.

The hearing would be held in the chambers of the judges.

APPEAL

Asher Isaac Daniel is 2 years old suffering from B cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia and requires chemotherapy at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to meet this crisis. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027/ 31523781.**
E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Centre allots site at Rajghat for Pranab's memorial

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has earmarked a designated site at the Rashtriya Smriti complex, a part of the Rajghat precinct, for erecting a memorial to the former President Pranab Mukherjee.

"The Competent Authority has approved the earmarking of a designated site within the 'Rashtriya Smriti' complex for erecting a Samadhi of Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India," the Union Housing and Urban Development Ministry said in a letter to his daughter Sharmishtha Mukherjee.

The announcement comes amid a controversy over a Congress's demand when former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh died on December 26 that the government declare a site for a memorial to him and conduct his funeral in the same place.

The former President's daughter met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday after receiving the letter and thanked him for honouring her father.

Sharing her pictures with Mr. Modi on X, she said: "Called on Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi*ji* to express thanks and gratitude from core of my heart for his government's decision to create a memorial for baba. It's more cherished considering that we didn't ask for it."

"Baba used to say that state honours shouldn't be asked for, it should be offered. I'm so grateful that Modi did this to honour babas' memory," she said.

Pranab Mukherjee passed away on August 31, 2020. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2019.

Ahead of Delhi polls, CEC clarifies on electoral rolls

He says allegations of mass deletions were misleading and undermined trust in system; Kumar, who is set to retire in February, also issues rebuttal to other concerns raised by Opposition parties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the Delhi Assembly election set to be the last election to be conducted under his watch, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday gave clarifications on a host of electoral practices questioned by the Opposition parties such as additions and deletions on the voter list and possible manipulation of electronic voting machines.

Mr. Kumar, who has been at the top job in the Election Commission since May 2022, is scheduled to retire in February.

Addressing a press conference here, the CEC said that in one full cycle of elections since 2020, 15 different parties emerged with most seats in different States.

This reflected how deep-rooted fairness was in the country's democratic system, he said.

Addressing concerns: Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner, dismissed claims of EVM tampering. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Kumar said there were two key reforms which were ready but would need political consensus for implementation. The first one was the "totaliser", a technology to link a number of EVMs and hide booth-wise voting patterns. The second one, he said, is a prototype to enable migrant workers to vote remotely.

Mr. Kumar gave a point-by-point rebuttal on concerns raised by the Opposition parties and activists under largely six points – wrongful additions or deletions on electoral rolls, manipulation of EVMs, increase in voter turnout from 5 p.m., mismatch in votes polled and counted in some constituencies, slowing down of counting and amendment in rules to restrict transparency.

On electoral rolls, he said the process for additions and deletions was transparent, rigorous, and immune to arbitrary changes. He said allegations of mass deletions were misleading, without evidence and undermined public trust in the system.

Apart from Delhi elections, where electoral rolls have become a fraught subject between the AAP and the BJP, the Congress has petitioned the EC over a jump in additions to the rolls just before the Maharashtra polls.

On the recent amendments in the election rules which restrict public from accessing CCTV footage of polling booths, the CEC said it was meant to protect voters' privacy and prevent use of data for creating fake narratives.

Citing several court judgments on EVMs, he rejected suggestions that they could be tampered.

ID tokenisation will help minors pass age test under new data rules: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Draft rules require platforms to verify the age of applicants for age-restricted services

The child verification system proposed in the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules to ensure that minors do not use social media platforms or age-restricted online services without parental consent has been formulated in consultation with the tech industry, Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Tuesday.

He said "no universal solution exists" for child verification.

"Nobody has one. We have attempted one," the Minister said at a press conference, referring to tokenisation of identity documents as a solution.

Currently, most platforms allow users to simply declare that they are at least 13 years old and have parental consent if they are below 18. The proposed rules dictate that platforms functioning in India must verify every new applicant's age using a "token" that reliably confirms either their age or, in the case of minors, their parent or guardian's age.

No copy

Tokenisation is a process that creates a digital representation of a piece of data, without creating a copy that can expose the data completely. The solution will allow an online site to accept a token of an ID to prove that a user is an adult, or has the approval of one, without accessing the full record of their identity documents. Asked if this token would be permitted to be deleted after its purpose was fulfilled, Mr. Vaishnaw indicated that it would.

"What we luckily have in our country – thanks to Aadhaar, payment systems, and digitisation – is a good digital architecture," he said adding that this was better than what rich countries had.

Privacy advocates have raised concerns on the child verification requirement, as it may potentially require every individual – whether a minor or not – to verify their age.

He pushed back on this, saying, "With today's technology, it is possible, without disruption, to see if an individual is old enough."

PM's view

Sharing an explanation of the draft rules by Mr. Vaishnaw, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, "The rules aim to safeguard personal data while driving growth and inclusivity."

Mr. Modi said the draft "prioritises India's commitment to citizen-centric governance."

Top court slams delay in appointing Information Commissioners

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday slammed the chronic delay shown by the Centre and States in appointing Information Commissioners to decide citizens' rights under the Right to Information Act.

The court asked what was the use of creating the transparency-in-governance institution if there were no people to work for the law. A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant noted that the Central Information Commission had eight vacant posts of Information Commissioner, while 23,000 appeals filed by citizens seeking information from various departments have been pending.

Several Information Commissions in the States have been defunct since 2020, and some have stopped accepting petitions under the Right to Information Act.

"An institution has been created... What is the use of this institution if you do not have persons to perform the duties under the law," Justice Kant asked Additional Solicitor-General Brijender Chahar, appearing for the Centre.

Justice Kant cautioned the government about how only people from a certain milieu, bureaucracy, get to be appointed as Information Commissioners.

"We can take judicial notice of how many people from different walks have been appointed... The entire Commission is overloaded with one set of candidates," Justice Kant said.

No change

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner-activist Anjali Bharadwaj, said the unabated appointments of retired bureaucrats continue despite a February 2019 apex court judgment highlighting the need to appoint people from all walks of life.

Mr. Bhushan said repeated prods from the Supreme Court in the 2019 judgment, and orders passed in October 2023 and November 2024 to make timely and transparent appointments of Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners, had hardly made a difference.

"There has been only regression and no progress after the Supreme Court's intervention. They are killing the RTI because nobody is interested in giving information. So the best way to kill the law is to render the Information Commissions defunct," Mr. Bhushan submitted.

'File affidavit'

The court directed the Department of Personnel and Training to file an affidavit in two weeks specifying timelines for completion of the process.

The Bench directed the States which had initiated the appointments process, "but without any commitment to a timeline", to notify the list of applicants and the composition of the search committee in two weeks, and complete the process in a total of eight weeks thereafter.

The Chief Secretaries were ordered to file compliance reports.

Apollo ProHealth and *The Hindu* to offer actionable health insights

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In today's world, lifestyle diseases or non-communicable diseases are on the rise, making access to accurate health information crucial. Misconceptions and lack of credible sources hinder people from making informed health decisions.

To address this, Apollo ProHealth and *The Hindu* have launched "Sincerely, Your Doctor", a year-long initiative aimed at providing reliable information on health. This collaboration brings together Apollo Hospitals' top doctors and *The Hindu* to offer science-backed insights on critical health topics such as gut health, heart health, mental well-being, cancer prevention, and stress management.

Each month, the initiative will deliver articles with actionable advice and emerging healthcare trends, empowering readers to make informed, proactive health decisions and embrace preventive care in their daily lives.

Srinidhi Chidambaram, head of health communications at Apollo Hospitals, said that preventive healthcare is essential for a healthier society. "This series will help readers separate fact from fiction, make informed decisions and embed preventive care into daily life."

Shreevidya V., medical director of preventive health services at Apollo, emphasised that early awareness can prevent lifestyle diseases.

Trusted information

Suresh Balakrishna, chief revenue officer of The Hindu Group, added that the collaboration aims to empower audiences with trusted health insights, inspiring informed choices for a healthier future through credible journalism and expert healthcare.

Ramya Kannan, Health Editor of *The Hindu*, says, "Getting to the root of the issue before it becomes a problem is at the heart of preventive healthcare. In a country where the number of people with non-communicable diseases is growing, sending out messages that will help people prevent the onset of health complications must be counted as a nation-building activity. That is what *The Hindu*'s campaign with Apollo Hospitals aims to achieve."

Readers can look forward to the first instalment of the series in *The Hindu* from January 9. They can also write in with questions to sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in or on WhatsApp on 8939 283283.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender No. SE/SC/KKD/02/2024-25

AMRUT-SEWERAGE SYSTEM TO KOZHIKODE CORPORATION – ZONE B PHASE 1 - Package 1 – AMRUT 2.0 – Design, Construction, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of 27 MLD capacity Sewage Treatment Plant with Co-treatment at Sarovaram & Network in Kozhikode Corporation.-General Civil Work

Cost of Tender form: Rs. 19518 (Inclusive of GST), **EMD**: Rs.500,000/-, **Date and time of opening Tender: 14/02/2025 at 11.00 am, Last date of receipt of Tender: 12/02/2025 at 5.00 pm, Phone**: 8547638488

E-mail - seppdkkd@gmail.com

Superintending Engineer, PPDIU, KWA, Kozhikode-20

राष्ट्रीय सिद्धा संस्थान / NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SIDDHA
आयुष मंत्रालय / **Ministry of Ayush**
भारत सरकार / **Government of India**
ताम्बरम सनटोरियम / **Tambaram Sanatorium**
चेन्नई / **Chennai - 600 047.**
फ़ोन / **Tele : 044-22411611, 044-22381314**
ईमेल / **Email: nischennaisiddha@yahoo.co.in**
वेब / **Website: https://nischennai.org**

संख्या / **No.NIS/1-3/Recruitment-Contract/2025**
दिनांक / **Date : 07.01.2025**

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO: 01 / 2025

A Walk-in interview will be held at **11.00 a.m.** onwards on **22.01.2025 (Wednesday)** at National Institute of Siddha, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai - 47 to fill up the following posts **on contract / part-time basis:-**

ON CONTRACT : -

(i)	Professor (Maruthuvam)	- 01 Post
(ii)	Professor (Nanju Maruthuvam)	- 01 Post
(iii)	Assistant Professor (Siddha Maruthuva Adippadai Thathuvangalum Varalaarum)	- 01 Post
(iv)	Placement Officer (anticipated vacancy)	- 01 Post

ON PART TIME : -

i)	Surgical Specialist	- 1 Post
ii)	Yoga Teacher	- 1 Post
iii)	Ophthalmologist	- 1 Post

For details of the above posts like educational qualifications, age, experience, general conditions etc., please visit "NOTIFICATIONS" in the Institute website **https://nischennai.org.**

Any updates / modifications in this regard will be posted in the above website only.

Director (i/c)

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For Registration

Date : 11, 12, 18, 19 & 25, 26th Jan 25
Time : 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees : 4720/-(Inclusive of GST)

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Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-Traffic Engineering Cell, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No. EE/RI-TEC/TEND/11/2024-2025 Date: 07.01.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)- CALL-3
(Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-TEC Division, BBMP, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the works in the below table.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Maintenance of BGS flyover from Town hall to Sirsi Circle. Appx. Amount put to tender : **Rs.320.00 Lakhs (Exclusive of GST), EMD Rs. 4,80,000.00** (Rs one lakh Through e- payment & remaining as specified in bid document).

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of Tender Document in KPP portal from : **08.01.2025 onwards, (2)** Last date for submission of pre-bid queries : **10.01.2025 upto 15.00hrs (3)** Pre-bid Meeting : **10.01.2025 at 16.30 hrs (4)** Last date for submission of Tenders : **16.01.2025upto 16.00hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Technical Bid : **17.01.2025 at 16.30 hrs. (6)** Date of opening of Financial Bid : Will be intimated to Tenderers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RI- Traffic Engineering Cell

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA,
PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail : theocclltd@odishaconstruction.com ;
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM

"e"-Procurement Notice No. 45 /OCCL/2024-25 (on-line)

On-line tender on EPC-Turn-Key basis is invited for the following work :

Sl No	Name of work	Bid Identification No.	Approx. value of work	Bid Security (through on-line transfer / as per DTCN) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability & Submission of tender of Tender (on-line)
1	Implementation of Underground pipe line Irrigation to the Command Area of Ong Irrigation Extension Project, Subarnapur, Odisha on EPC-Turn-Key basis.	OCCL-LSSP/07/24-25	Rs.274 Crore	Rs.2,74,00,000/-	24 (twenty four) Calendar months	From 09.01.2025, 03.30 PM to 24.02.2025, 5.30 PM.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL.
Date of Opening of the Tender : 25.02.2025, 12.00 Noon onwards
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in

CAD-2101

MANAGING DIRECTOR
OIPR-34176/11/0019/2425

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: eptenders.kmscl@kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/216/2025 Dated : 07.01.2025

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T563/2025	Automated Pasteurizer- Indigenous, Hospital Grade Electrical Breast Pump, Containers for Pasteurization, Bottle Sealer with foil for sealing bottles, Bottle warmer for thawing milk, Procure-ment of Consumables for TB Centre.	16.01.2025 11.00 am.	28.01.2025 5.00 p.m.
		Oxygen Cylinder (B) with Trolley, Elisa Reader and Washer, Vertical Plasma Freezer -40 Degree C (Deep Freezer -40 Degree), Plasma Expressor, Flash Autoclave, Vaccum Extractor, Surgical Diathermy	N.A.	22.01.2025 5.00 p.m.
2.	T564(R) / 2025	Hormone Analyser-POCT, Biomedical Liquid Nitrogen Storage Container with Accessories, Circulatory Support System, Medical Gas Analyzer, Phantom Head Simulator Unit with Centralized Compressor Unit and Air Connection to each unit, Great Platinum Stirrups, Special Retractors and Instruments for doing Pelvi Acetabular Surgeries, Tonopen, TMJ Arthroscopy Set Type B, Ventilator Calibration Analyzer, Flit Pump, Dusting Unit, Hydrogen Sulphite Test Kit, Compressor for Autoclave, Dental Acrylizer, Dental Assistant Stool, Dental Cabinet, Dental Hydraulic Press, Endo Dontic Machine, Dewaxing Bath unit (Dental), Dental Melting Torch, Exercise Table, Patient Immobilization System, Minispin, Digital Vortex Mixer, 2.5 mm Arthroscope with Trocar and Cannula, Fluid Warmer (Blood Warmer), Chromosomal Microarray Platform, Refrigerated Centrifuge with Rotor	N.A.	25.01.2025 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

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TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
NILGIRIS FOREST DIVISION, UDHAGAMANDALAM.

Ref.No.9307/2024/L **Dated: 02.01.2025**

e-TENDER CUM e-AUCTION NOTICE

An e-Tender cum e-Auction of 47 Bluegum and Bluegum Wattle Mixed Plantations is scheduled to be conducted on **31.01.2025** at **11.00 am** to **02.00 pm** on **"MSTC e-commerce"** portal. For the detailed notice, please visit **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** (or) Contact Nilgiris Forest Division Office at Ph.No. **0423-2444083** during office working hours (or) **dfonlgsouth@gmail.com**

DIPR/ 042 /TENDER/2025

District Forest Officer,
Nilgiris Forest Division, Udhagamandalam

INBRIEF

Pak. pilgrims arrive at Ajmer dargah to participate in *Urs*

A group of 89 pilgrims from Pakistan arrived in Ajmer early on Tuesday to participate in the ongoing 813th *Urs* at the dargah of Sufi mystic Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. Strict security arrangements were made for the pilgrims, who were taken to the Government Central Girls' Senior Secondary School at Purani Mandi for the stay. The pilgrims, accompanied by two officers of the Pakistan High Commission, travelled to Ajmer by train from New Delhi after crossing the border at Attari. They will offer a ceremonial *chadar* (sheet of cloth) at the 13th century shrine and are likely to stay in Ajmer till January 10.

Students' body, teachers question new UGC draft rules

The SFI said in a statement on Tuesday that it rejects the draft University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025. The SFI said the regulation was yet another attempt to "centralise and corporatise" campuses. Delhi University Teachers' Association EC member Rudrashish Chakraborty said that the recruitment criteria endorsed the NEP's emphasis on the common courses, which are poor and substandard.

Collegium recommends Patna HC Chief Justice to SC

The Supreme Court Collegium on Tuesday recommended Patna High Court Chief Justice K. Vinod Chandran for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court. The collegium noted that there was currently no judge in the Supreme Court with the Kerala High Court as the parent court. Justice C.T. Ravikumar, who was from the Kerala High Court, retired last week. Justice Chandran is now the senior-most among the High Court judges hailing from Kerala. The collegium has also recommended the transfer of Bombay High Court Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya to Delhi and the Telangana High Court Chief Justice Alok Aradhe to the Bombay High Court.

States have no money to give doles but not to judges: SC

States have enough money to give freebies to people who do not work but they claim financial constraints when it comes to paying salary and pension to judges of the district judiciary, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Augustine George Masih made the oral observation after Attorney-General R. Venkataramani submitted that the government has to consider financial constraints when deciding the pay and retirement benefits of judicial officers. "Come elections, you declare Ladli Behna and other new schemes where you pay fixed amounts. In Delhi, we have announcements saying they will pay ₹2,500 if they come to power," the Bench remarked. PTI

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to begin today in Odisha

Over 3,000 delegates from 70 nations have arrived in the State; event will be inaugurated by Modi; Trinidad and Tobago President Christine Carla Kangaloo will be the chief guest of the 18th edition

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Over 3,000 delegates from 70 countries have arrived in Odisha ahead of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), which will get under way here on Wednesday.

The three-day event, based on the theme "Diaspora's contribution to a *Viksit Bharat*", will be formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the second day of the convention. The previous edition was held in Indore in January 2023, in partnership with the Madhya Pradesh government.

"Christine Carla Kangaloo, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, will be the chief guest of the 18th PBD, and she would be virtually addressing the convention. Dr. Dev Pragad, CEO and co-owner of *Newsweek*, will be the guest of honour at the Youth PBD on January 8," Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary (Consular Passport, Visa, and Overseas Indian Affairs) said at a press conference here.

S. Jaishankar and his wife Kyoko Jaishankar during their visit to Raghurajpur artists' village in Puri district on Tuesday. PTI

"We will have ministerial-level delegations from Mauritius, Malaysia and South Africa. There will be big delegation of diaspora from several other countries, including from Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Qatar, the UAE, the U.K. and the U.S."

"Mr. Modi has given us the vision of a *Viksit Bharat* by 2047. We have taken the initiative of not only sharing this vision with our esteemed diaspora, but have also urged them to partner our journey towards this cherished goal," he said.

"The Indian diaspora has an important role to play in the vision of *Viksit Bharat*. It acts as a living bridge between their motherland and their adopted homeland. That is why the Government of India has chosen the diaspora's contribution to a *Viksit Bharat* as the overarching dream of the 18th PBD."

He said Union Ministers would chair plenary sessions while eminent Indians from various fields would moderate the sessions.

Tourist train

The PM will remotely flag off the inaugural journey of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a special tourist train for the Indian diaspora which will depart from Delhi and travel to multiple destinations of tourist and religious importance for three weeks.

The PBD will feature the spread and evolution of the Indian diaspora in the world with special focus on Mandvi to Muscat. This will showcase the rare documents of people who had migrated from Mandvi in Gujarat to Muscat in Oman.

President Droupadi Murmu will chair the valedictory session and confer the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman on 27 distinguished members of the Indian diaspora to recognise their outstanding contribution and achievements in diverse fields both in their countries of residence as well as in India.

Awards will be given to Indian diaspora members from 24 countries.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the event is an opportunity for Odisha to showcase its rich cultural heritage and tradition before the world.

Odisha Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja said, "We have been working to make this event comfortable and pleasurable We have identified about 21 tourist sites."

Union govt. says no rise in respiratory illnesses in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The States were asked to strengthen awareness of preventive steps and intensify surveillance

The Union government has advised the States to strengthen awareness of preventive measures against infection by the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), and intensify surveillance of influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infection.

The direction followed a virtual meeting chaired by Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava recently with officials of the States and Union Territories. They reviewed the prevalence of respiratory illnesses and the status of HMPV cases, following media reports of a surge in the infection in China, and the public health measures for their management.

Senior Health Ministry officials attended the meeting, which reiterated that the data collected so far does not indicate any unusual rise in prevalence of respiratory illnesses.

'No cause of concern'

The Health Secretary said there was no cause of concern over HMPV, which has been present globally since 2001. She advised the States to strengthen and review surveillance.

The Ministry reiterated that prevalence of respiratory illnesses was usually high during winter, while adding that the country was well prepared for any potential surge.

HMPV is one of the many respiratory viruses that can cause infections in people of all ages particularly during winter and early spring. The viral infection is usually a mild and self-limiting condition and most cases recover on their own.

The meeting was informed that adequate diagnostic facilities are available with the ICMR-VRDL laboratories.

The States were advised to enhance awareness among the population regarding prevention of transmission of the virus with simple measures such as washing hands often with soap and water; avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands and so on.

Inter-ministerial committee is needed to strengthen AI governance: IndiaAI Mission

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

In a recognition that artificial intelligence (AI) has impact on a wide range of fields, a Union government panel mandated to develop AI guidelines has recommended that an inter-ministerial committee be set up to enforce AI rules and ensure effective governance of the country's emerging AI ecosystem.

An advisory group of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's IndiaAI Mission, headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser, is seeking public feedback on a report released on Monday by its AI guidelines sub-committee.

The panel's report is notable as it is the most detailed articulation yet of the government's approach towards AI in India.

The IndiaAI Mission is seeking feedback on a report released on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

It appears that the Centre seeks to maximise gains from investments in AI, while having light regulatory frameworks to act as guardrails against any potential harm.

Apart from an inter-ministerial AI coordination committee or governance group to oversee AI in India, the panel recommended that the IT Ministry should house a "technical secretariat" to bring in officers on deputation from other departments and regulators. This would help to "pool together multi-disciplinary expertise", map stakeholders in the AI ecosystem, and assess risks, along with other research, it recommends.

The report outlines the following principles for AI governance: transparency of AI systems with "meaningful information on their development" and capabilities; accountability from developers and deployers of AI systems; safety, reliability and robustness of AI systems by design; privacy and security of AI systems; fairness and non-discrimination; human-centred values and "do no harm"; inclusive and sustainable innovation to "distribute the benefits of innovation equitably"; and "digital by design" governance to "leverage digital technologies" to operationalise these principles.

V. Narayanan, spacecraft and rocket propulsion expert, appointed ISRO Chairman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

He will take over from Somanath, who oversaw landmark missions such as Chandrayaan-3

V. Narayanan has been appointed the new Space Secretary. Dr. Narayanan, who is currently the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), will be the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and he will take over from S. Somanath on January 14.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved appointment of V. Narayanan, Director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Valiamala, as Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, Space Commission for a period of two years with effect from 14.01.2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier," stated an order from the Ministry of Personnel and Training.

V. Narayanan

Dr. Narayanan, who is a rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert, joined the ISRO in 1984 and functioned in various capacities before becoming Director of the LPSC.

During the initial phase of his career he worked in the solid propulsion area of sounding rockets and Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). He has also contributed significantly for the ISRO's geosynchronous launch vehicles namely GSLV Mk-II & GSLV Mk-III.

"As the Chairman of the National Expert Committee constituted to study the reasons for hardlanding of Chandrayaan-2 landership, contributed in pinpointing the reasons and corrective actions required to overcome the observations. Realised and delivered all the Propulsion Systems for Chandrayaan-3," Dr. Narayanan's profile says.

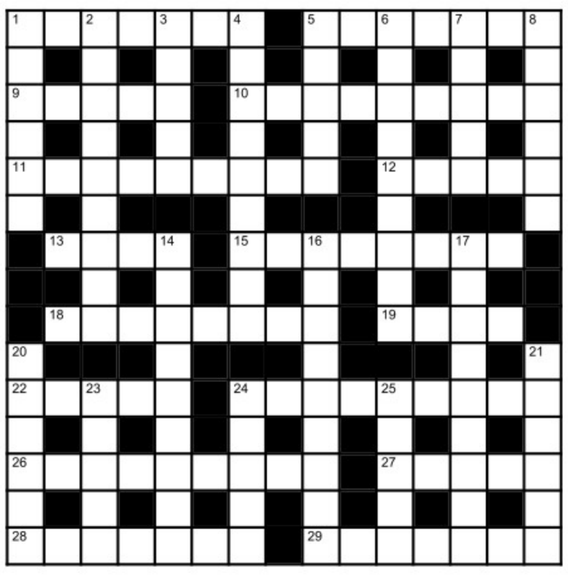
He will take over from Mr. Somanath, who oversaw landmark missions such as Chandrayaan-3, Aditya L1 and the first developmental flight of the Gaganyaan mission.

TH CROSSWORD + 14377

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Country song describing soldiers (7)
5 Feel sorry having to carry rifle - showing honesty (7)
9 Instrument on board to detect crime - take up the issue first (5)
10 He denies profit, years wasted (9)
11 Metal frame all around is a painting done in monochrome (9)
12 Irving banks on John at whitehouse (5)
13 Where one may be from originally (4)
15 Regularly furnish on board if wobbly (8)
18 Complaint? It's urine problem (8)
19 Some retired planter, still active (4)
22 A service store (5)
24 State university team ordered to participate in the festival (9)
26 Crazy speed on winding road - it's criminal (9)
27 Praise the old lot that returned (5)
28 Sea cow had hair all over (7)
29 Don't play guitar - that's a remedy (7)

Down

1 Wrong diagnosis - do I leave and appoint someone? (6)
2 It's silly to give extra protection for a legendary creature (9)
3 Usual short opera (5)
4 Criminal dealt with guns, and drug (5,4)
5 Ask about interest balance (5)
6 Nothing beats analysis before investing money - bullish? (9)
7 A tranquil place coming up in a hilly district (5)
8 Fret over a growing plant (6)
14 Flyer's abode may find itself in a soup (5,4)
16 Shortly acquiring - enquire at a Canadian city (9)
17 Waste cans filled after some time in British town (9)
20 Police team outside New Delhi - going one after another (6)
21 Here, in New York border, every other barrel is stored (6)
23 An issue about never ending crime (5)
24 People after midnight show good manners (5)
25 Bet the poles support the first lady (5)

SUDOKU

						4	6	
			5	7		2	9	
				8	4			3
	8	1	9					6
9					2	7	5	
8			4	5				
	7	9		1	8			
	4	3						

No.SS6394 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

G	E	R	A	N	I	U	M		L	O	O	F	A	H
U		A		O		N		V		D		U		O
S	A	N	G	R	I	A		E	Y	E	B	R	O	W
H		C		W		C		S		O		B		I
E	R	I	C	A		C	O	T	A	N	G	E	N	T
R		D		Y		O		E				L		Z
			G	R	O	U	N	D	S	T	R	O	K	E
C		U		A		N		I		E		W		R
H	E	S	I	T	A	T	I	N	G	L	Y			
A		U				E		T		L		Y		T
P	A	R	T	R	I	D	G	E		U	S	E	R	S
L		I		E		F		R		R		M		E
A	V	O	C	A	D	O		E	M	I	N	E	N	T
I		U		V		R		S		U		N		S
N	O	S	H	E	R		P	T	O	M	A	I	N	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	4	8	3	6	7	1	2	5
7	1	3	2	5	4	9	8	6
2	5	6	8	1	9	7	4	3
6	3	2	1	4	8	5	7	9
1	9	7	5	2	3	4	6	8
5	8	4	9	7	6	3	1	2
4	6	9	7	3	2	8	5	1
8	2	5	4	9	1	6	3	7
3	7	1	6	8	5	2	9	4

FAITH

Thiruchengode's speciality

In the Thiruchengode temple, Lord Murugan is known as Sengottuvelan. He stands alone on top of a hill, and faces East. In His right hand, He holds a spear, and in His left hand He holds a rooster, which faces His feet. This is a unique form of Murugan, not seen anywhere else. The vigraha is made of an amalgam of nine ingredients and is white in colour. Murugan is generally referred to as Sevvel, the red hued One. But He is white in colour here, because of the specially made idol. The vigraha shows the symbolic meanings behind Soora samhara, said T. Rajarathinam in a discourse.

The asura Soorapadman, even after being killed by Murugan, reappeared in the form of a mango tree. Murugan used His spear to split the tree into two. One half turned into a peacock, which became Murugan's vahana. The other half turned into a rooster, which became the emblem on Murugan's flag. There is rich symbolism behind the Soorapadman story. The spear indicates jnana sakthi, and the rooster is representative of *naada*. The peacock becoming Murugan's vahana indicates Murugan destroying Soorapadman's illusion. The rooster becoming the emblem on the flag indicates the destruction of Soorapadman's karma. The spear shows the destruction of Soorapadman's ego.

Pamban Swamigal has praised Thiruchengode as the place that brings out all the deep meanings of the Soorapadman story. Arunagirinatha's Kandar Alankaram is entirely about Lord Murugan of Thiruchengode. Arunagirinatha wishes that Brahma had given him 4,000 eyes to see Sengottuvelan.

INBRIEF

ASK Property, India Sotheby's float ₹1000-crore fund

ASK Property Fund and India Sotheby's International Realty on Tuesday announced the launch of a ₹1,000-crore fund for investments in luxury housing projects across major cities. In a joint statement, the firms said they have done a "strategic collaboration to launch India's first luxury real estate investment platform – ASK Curated Luxury Assets Fund." The size of this fund will be ₹1,000 crore equity, with a green shoe option of ₹500 crore. PTI

Gems, jewellery sector seeks to reduce GST to 1% in Budget

The gems and jewellery sector has urged the government to reduce the goods and services tax (GST) to 1% on revenue equivalence ratio to ease the cost burden on the industry in the upcoming Budget. "We seek rationalisation of taxes and availability of finance to support business," the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) Chairman Rajesh Rokde said on Tuesday. Currently, both natural and lab-grown diamonds are taxed at the same GST rate. PTI

MobiKwik reports ₹3.6 cr. loss in Q2 on higher investment

Digital wallet provider MobiKwik, listed last month, on Tuesday reported a loss of ₹3.59 crore during the second quarter ended September 2024, as against ₹6 crore standalone profit recorded in the same quarter a year ago, on account of continued investments in the business for the next growth phase. Total income increased to ₹294 crore as against ₹207 crore at the end of September 2023, One MobiKwik Systems Ltd. said in a regulatory filing. PTI

December auto sales skid 12%

Barring tractors, all segments take a hit last month; two-wheeler sales suffered a substantial drop of 17.6% over December 2023, and 54.2% over November figures; dealers attributed this to delayed crop payments and typical year-end factors

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Auto retail sales in December slid 12% year-on-year (y-o-y) and 45.26% month-on-month (m-o-m), as per Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) data, signalling a persistent demand crunch in a slowing economy.

All categories, except tractors, saw a contraction with two-wheeler (2W), three-wheeler (3W), passenger vehicle (PV) and commercial vehicle (CV) sales sliding 17.6%, 4.5%, 2% and 5.2%, respectively.

Slippery slope

Sales remained weak for all segments except tractors last month; however, overall 2024 sales still grew 9.1% to over 2.61 crore units

Category	Dec.24 (YOY)	CY24
2W	-17.64%	10.78%
3W	-4.57%	10.49%
PV	-1.97%	5.18%
Tractors	25.78%	2.55%
CV	-5.24%	0.07%
Total	-12.49%	9.11%
Units sold	17,56,419	2,61,07,679

Source: FADA Research

Tractors managed to buck the trend with a 25.7% growth with the farm sector seeing a healthier year.

The 2W segment suffered a substantial drop of 54.2% from November, and FADA said this was the impact of delayed crop payments, halted government disbursements and typical year-end factors, Supply challenges for popular models and growing push toward EVs weighed on volumes.

PV retail sales slid 1.9% yoy and 8.8% m-o-m, primarily due to high inventory levels following the festive season and aggressive discounting aimed at clearing stock, said C. S. Vigneshwar, president, FADA.

"Poor market sentiment, limited new model launches and intense price competition among co-dealers further impacted sales," he said.

CV retail sales declined 5.2% yoy and 12.1% m-o-m due to low market sentiment, delayed government fund releases and slow financing approvals, he said. Many customers postponed purchases, opting to wait for 2025 models.

However, despite multiple headwinds like heatwaves, elections and slowing growth, retail vehicle sales grew 9% in 2024.

Looking ahead, dealer sentiment for January is cautiously optimistic, with almost half (48.09%) of surveyed dealers anticipating growth, 41.22% expecting stable demand, and 10.69% fearing a decline.

Goldman Sachs unit, Everstone sell Omega stake

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Goldmans Sachs Alternatives and Everstone Capital said on Tuesday they have signed an agreement to sell a co-control stake in Omega Healthcare to Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan for an unspecified amount.

Omega Healthcare provides revenue cycle management and clinical services to U.S. healthcare organisations.

Founded in 2003, it has about 35,000 employees at 14 delivery centres in the U.S., India, Colombia and Philippines, a release said.

Smartphone parts' duty cut to hit local firms and jobs: GTRI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Any reduction in the customs duty on smartphone parts in the forthcoming Budget will harm India's developing component ecosystem, discourage investment, raise imports, and make local firms uncompetitive, potentially resulting in job losses, think tank GTRI said on Tuesday.

India's smartphone industry is a 'Make in India' success story, with 2023-24 production reaching $49.2 billion and exports at $15.6 billion, making smartphones the fourth-largest in exports after diesel, aviation fuel and polished diamonds. However, a few industry groups are pushing for a further import tariff cut on smartphone components in the Union Budget for FY26.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) warned this could harm India's local manufacturing ecosystem and long-term ambitions in electronics.

"Instead of cutting tariffs, GTRI recommends the setting up of component hubs near ports to cut import delays and warehousing costs. This approach, used by countries like Vietnam and China would support local manufacturing and also reduce import dependency," said the think tank's founder Ajay Srivastava.

"Lower tariffs could encourage unsustainable assembly-based operations. Besides, mid- and low-end segments depend on local components and provide employment. Duty cuts would make local firms uncompetitive, resulting in job losses," he added.

India's fuel demand grew by 2.1% in December

Reuters

India's fuel demand rose 2.1% in December compared with the same month in 2023, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Oil Ministry showed.

Consumption of fuel totalled 20.67 million metric tonne, the data showed. Petrol sales rose 10.8% from a year earlier to 3.3 million tonne.

Diesel consumption was up 6% at 8.1 million tonne in December. Cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sales increased 5.8% to 2.78 million tonne.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	78,199	0.30
US Dollar	85.74	-0.07
Gold	79,700	0.88
Brent oil	76.80	-0.14

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2520.55	46.10
Adani Ports	1174.00	10.95
Apollo Hosp	7436.75	7.60
Asian Paints	2292.60	25.45
Axis Bank	1067.50	4.10
Bajaj Auto	8810.30	-13.55
Bajaj Finserv	1682.75	-1.85
Bajaj Finance	7353.95	4.60
Bharat Elec	287.00	4.85
Bharti Airtel	1590.85	2.40
BPCL	282.80	-2.05
Britannia Ind	4832.25	41.00
Cipla	1497.45	6.05
Coal India	379.80	1.05
Dr Reddys Lab	1351.55	1.20
Eicher Motors	5177.30	-72.80
Grasim Ind	2467.25	6.70
HCL Tech	1915.90	-37.15
HDFC Bank	1713.40	2.90
HDFC Life	619.85	13.90
Hero MotoCorp	4162.05	-40.75
Hindalco	584.50	10.40
Hind Unilever	2390.80	14.60
ICICI Bank	1279.25	15.15
IndusInd Bank	983.60	13.55
Infosys	1930.85	-7.00
ITC	441.10	-1.55
JSW Steel	911.80	10.90
Kotak Bank	1772.05	-7.60
L&T	3643.30	40.10
M&M	3108.85	3.15
Maruti Suzuki	11721.30	-34.35
NestleIndia	2212.65	27.65
NTPC	328.60	1.10
ONGC	263.49	9.13
PowerGrid Corp	305.05	-0.95
Reliance Ind	1240.85	22.85
SBI Life	1477.75	43.10
State Bank	778.75	2.35
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2958.40	-11.15
Sun Pharma	1853.40	6.00
TataConsumerProduct	955.00	8.10
Tata Motors	793.25	17.00
Tata Steel	133.38	1.20
TCS	4028.30	-66.70
Tech Mahindra	1671.15	-15.15
Titan	3505.10	34.70
Trent Ltd.	6874.30	-124.05
UltraTech Cement	11618.55	114.95
Wipro	294.05	-0.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.51	85.83
Euro	88.99	89.33
British Pound	107.20	107.61
Japanese Yen (100)	54.18	54.39
Chinese Yuan	11.67	11.72
Swiss Franc	94.30	94.66
Singapore Dollar	62.81	63.05
Canadian Dollar	59.73	59.95
Malaysian Ringitt	19.05	19.15
Australian Dollar	53.68	53.89

Source:Indian Bank

Kandla port to get ship building facility, cargo terminal at ₹57,000 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways on Tuesday announced two major investments at the Kandla port – a mega ship building and repair project at an investment of ₹30,000 crore, and a new cargo terminal outside Kandla Creek for ₹27,000 crore, which will add 135 mtpa to the port's capacity.

"The new shipbuilding facility at the Kandla Port will develop technical capability in the country to manufacture 'Very Large Crude Carrier' or similar class of vessels with capacity up to 3,20,000 tonnes DWT. The facility will have capacity to produce 32 new ships and repair 50 old ships every year," the Ministry said in an official statement.

Spread across an area of more than 8,000 acres, the new facility will have components like marina, fishing harbour, townships and marine industrial cluster. The projects were announced by Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal.

"Ports are critical hubs for the nation's economy, serving as vital links to support growth and drive economic development. Enhancing capacity in port infrastructure is essential to meet our expanding ambitions," he said.

The new facility at Kandla Port will not only significantly augment its operations, but also enhance efficiency through the segregation of dry and liquid cargo," the Minister added.

Microsoft unveils $3-billion outlay plan for India to boost AI, cloud infrastructure

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Satya Nadella. JOHN XAVIER

Microsoft on Tuesday announced a $3 billion investment in India, marking its largest-ever expansion in the country.

The announcement, made by CEO Satya Nadella at a Microsoft AI Tour event in Bengaluru, underscores the tech giant's commitment to bolstering India's AI infrastructure and driving innovation in one of the fastest-growing digital markets.

The investment will be focused on building new data centres across India, enhancing Microsoft's computing capabilities and enabling cutting-edge AI solutions. The move comes at a time when several tech companies are experimenting with AI tools and agentic frameworks to streamline workflows.

The company's recent partnership with local enterprises, like Jio, further highlights the importance of the Indian market in the global race for AI dominance.

"India's unique combination of entrepreneurial energy, robust infrastructure, and demographic strength creates an unmatched environment for innovation," CEO Satya Nadella said at the event.

The company's initiative aligns with the country's rapid adoption of AI tools and platforms, empowering industries across healthcare, contract management, and knowledge work. In his key note address, Mr. Nadella highlighted India as an AI powerhouse, noting that by 2028, the country's developers would be the largest community on GitHub. Project contributors from India are second on the platform after the U.S.

Mr. Nadella also showcased Microsoft's AI platform, Copilot, which integrates seamlessly into workflows, offering transformative capabilities to businesses. Copilot's applications, from automating tasks to facilitating complex decision-making processes, are expected to revolutionise productivity and efficiency in Indian enterprises.

"Infrastructure is the foundation for driving future innovation, and India is poised to lead the way," Mr. Nadella emphasised.

This investment announcement follows Microsoft's plan to invest $80 billion to build AI-enabled data centres in 2025. Over 50% of this spend will be made in the United States. During the event, Microsoft also announced a free tier of GitHub Copilot, launched in December.

The company emphasised its broader vision of integrating AI into products like Windows 365 and next-generation devices through collaborations with companies like Qualcomm, AMD and Intel.

Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation, Jalgaon
Sanitation Department
E-Tender Notice No.05/2024-25
Extension No.01

Reference Number :- Outward No.JCMC/Sanitation/936/2024-2025 Date.07/01/2025

Inviting E-tender From Registered Institute or Company/ Agency for Work of **1.** House to House Collection of Municipal Solid Waste (Dry & Wet Separately) up to Processing Plant Via Secondary Transfer Collection Centre. **2.** Supply of 500 Labors for Daily Road Sweeping, Drain Cleaning etc. for 5 years Period at Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation Jalgaon Area. All Information and Details of Tender, Like Tender Form Fee, Tender Cost, EMD, Time Schedule etc available on website **www.mahaetenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
Commissioner
Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation, Jalgaon

THE HINDU GROUP

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THE HINDU LIT FOR LIFE 2025
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In association with CHRIST

LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Filmmaker K. Hariharan's book traces the cinematic journey of an icon of Tamil films? Which actor are we talking about?
2. Eminent physician and celebrated author whose latest book was an Oprah Book Club pick of 2023. Which book? Who is author?
3. Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities is set during a historical event. Which one?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit
newsth.live/LFL2025QZ
take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. The Four Purusharthas | 2. Cholas | 3. Syed Kirmani

Yesterday's Winners:
1. V Muthuramakrishnan, Trichy | 2. Asha Valath, Thrissur | 3. Gayathri J, Chennai

FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
KANJIKODE WEST, PALAKKAD – 678 623, KERALA, INDIA
(Under Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India)
Phone: 0491-2566120/2566206 Fax: 0491-2566326
Email: purchase@fcriindia.com, Web: http://www.fcriindia.com
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TENDER NOTICE

1)Tender No. PUR/FCRI/W-24107/2024-25
Scope: Providing Casual Manpower at FCRI Kanjikode West, Palakkad.
Bid through GeM Portal only. GeM Bid No. GEM/2024/B/5754225.
Details can be obtained from FCRI Website www.fcriindia.com/tenders.

2)Tender No. PUR/FCRI/W-23159/HT-PANEL/2024-25
Scope: Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 11KV HT Panel including buyback of Existing Panel.
Bid through GeM Portal only. GeM Bid No. GEM/2024/B/5725989.
Details can be obtained from FCRI Website www.fcriindia.com/tenders.

Sd/- DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
P.H.E.D.,REGION-PALI
Tel: 0232-222678, Email: CEPHEDPALI@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN

No. ACE/PHED/Region Pali/TA/2024-25/ 39-148 Date:-31/12/2024

NIB No. 09-12/ 2024-25

Online tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the following works from contractors enlisted in suitable class with the PHED Rajasthan and meeting eligibility criteria. Contractors enlisted with other Department of Government of Rajasthan and enlisted with CPWD/Postal, Telecom, Railway, MES, other state Govt./Central Govt. undertaking/ organizations equivalent in appropriate class of Rajasthan meeting eligibility criteria may apply after giving prescribed earnest money. Details of this tender notification and pre qualification criteria can also be seen in NIT exhibited on web site www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http//sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, in electronic format on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

The cost of tender document, RISL fee & earnest money as specified in detailed NIT, must be deposited online through single challan on web portal "http//egras.raj.nic.in" in budget head of account as specified in detailed NIT.

NIB No.	UBN No.	Estt Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	EMD (2%)	Bid Cost (Rs.)	EPROC Fee(Rs.)	Completion Period
09/2024-25	PHE2425WL0B07771	651.45	1302906.00	25000.00	2500.0	12 Months
10/2024-25	PHE2425WL0B07772	1235.28	2470554.00	25000.00	2500.0	24 Months
11/2024-25	PHE2425WL0B07773	1598.02	3196045.00	25000.00	2500.0	24 Months
12/2024-25	PHE2425WL0B07774	1871.13	3742270.00	25000.00	2500.0	24 Months

Bid Sub	NIB No. 09/2024-25	NIB No. 10/2024-25	NIB No. 11/2024-25	NIB No. 12/2024-25
Availability of Bid Document	01-01-2025 05:00PM	01-01-2025 05:00PM	01-01-2025 05:00PM	01-01-2025 05:00PM
Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	07-01-2025 03:00 PM	07-01-2025 03:00 PM	07-01-2025 03:00 PM	07-01-2025 03:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	13-01-2025 3:00 PM	13-01-2025 3:00 PM	13-01-2025 3:00 PM	13-01-2025 3:00 PM
Last date & time for Online Download of Bid	17-02-2025 6:00 PM	20-02-2025 6:00 PM	24-02-2025 6:00 PM	27-02-2025 6:00 PM
Last date & time for Online Submission of Bid	17-02-2025 6:00 PM	20-02-2025 6:00 PM	24-02-2025 6:00 PM	27-02-2025 6:00 PM
Last date & time for physical Submission of Bid Security and other mandatory Documents	18-02-2025 11:00 AM	21-02-2025 11:00 AM	25-02-2025 11:00 AM	28-02-2025 11:00 AM
Date of online opening of Technical Bids	18-02-2025 3:00 PM	21-02-2025 3:00 PM	25-02-2025 3:00 PM	28-02-2025 3:00 PM

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state, and PHED department website.

(Jagdish Chandra Vyas)
Additional Chief Engineer
P.H.E.D., Region-Pali

DIPR/C/132/2025

SEOUL

South Korea graft body obtains new warrant to arrest Yoon

REUTERS

South Korea's anti-corruption agency said it received a new court warrant to detain impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol after its previous attempt was blocked by the presidential security service last week. The officials plan to question the embattled President about his short-lived martial law decree of December 3. AFP

GENEVA

Iran reportedly executed at least 901 people in 2024, says UN

AFP

Iranian authorities reportedly executed more than 900 people last year, including around 40 in a single week in December, the United Nations rights chief Volker Turk said on Tuesday. That compares to at least 853 people executed in Iran in 2023. "It is high time Iran stemmed this ever-swelling tide of executions," Mr. Turk said. AFP

SEOUL

New hypersonic missile will deter 'rivals', says North Korean leader

AP

North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un said the country tested a new hypersonic missile this week aimed at deterring the country's Pacific rivals. The test came two weeks before the inauguration of U.S. president-elect Donald Trump and coincided with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to the South. AFP

PALM BEACH

Trump refuses to rule out action over Panama Canal and Greenland

REUTERS

Donald Trump refused to rule out military intervention over the Panama Canal and Greenland, both of which he has said he wants the U.S. to control. "I can say this, we need them for economic security. I am not going to commit to that (no military action). It might be that you have to do something," Mr. Trump said. AFP

Temblor hit mountain terrain

Houses collapse as 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck high-altitude Tingri, 80 km north of Everest, near China's border with Nepal, around 9 a.m.; at least 185 injured, of which 28 are in critical condition; Xi Jinping, Dalai Lama express condolences

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

A devastating earthquake in China's remote Tibet region killed at least 126 people and damaged thousands of buildings on Tuesday, state media reported, with tremors also felt in neighbouring Nepal's capital Kathmandu and parts of India.

Rescue workers waded through rubble strewn across the ruins in the aftermath, footage showed, while some gave locals thick blankets to keep warm in subzero temperatures.

The quake struck rural, high-altitude Tingri county, about 80 km north of Mount Everest near China's border with Nepal, at around 9 a.m. (0630 IST) on Tuesday.

Shock episode: Rescuers transfer the injured at Zhacun Village in Xigaze, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region on Tuesday. AP

"Here the houses are made from dirt so when the earthquake came... lots of houses collapsed," said 34-year-old Sangji Dangzhi, whose supermarket in Tingri suffered considerable damage.

At least 126 people have been confirmed dead and 188 others injured as of 7 p.m., CCTV said.

Twenty-eight people in critical condition were transferred to hospital for treatment and 3,609 houses had collapsed, it added.

The China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC) measured the quake's magnitude as 6.8, while the U.S. Geological Survey reported it as 7.1.

The area most affected is surrounded by mountainous terrain on the Chinese side of Mount Everest.

Tingri, the epicentre, is home to around 62,000 people, and is much less developed than urban centres like Tibet's capital Lhasa.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for "all-out search and rescue efforts".

The Dalai Lama said he was "deeply saddened".

As well as Kathmandu, areas around Lobuche – in the high mountains near Everest in Nepal – were also rattled by the tremor and aftershocks.

Some tremors were felt in Bihar state in India but no injuries were reported.

Tuesday's quake was the most powerful recorded within a 200-km radius in the last five years, the CENC said. A quake in December 2023 in northwest China killed 148 people and displaced thousands in Gansu province.

It was China's deadliest since 2014, when more than 600 people were killed in southwestern Yunnan province.

Dissanayake to visit China next week; India terms its ties with Sri Lanka 'buoyant'

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake will visit China from January 14 to 17, the Cabinet spokesman announced on Tuesday, confirming the Sri Lankan leader's second state visit abroad, a month after he visited India.

Mr. Dissanayake will be accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism Vijitha Herath, and Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports, and Civil Aviation Bimal Rathnayake, Cabinet spokesman Nalinda Jayatissa told media. Debt treatment and bilateral development cooperation are among key issues expected to be discussed in Beijing.

Mr. Dissanayake's visit to China marks his second major bilateral engagement after he rose to the country's top office in September. In November, his National People's Power [NPP] coalition swept the polls with an unprecedented two-thirds majority and soon after, Mr. Dissanayake undertook his first state visit abroad to India.

The NPP's chief constituent, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front), which Mr. Dissanayake leads, has Marxist-Leninist roots and a history of opposing India, prompting many to describe it as a pro-China party.

However, the JVP has sought to refashion itself in the last decade, in a bid to widen its appeal while retaining its traditional base. Further, Mr. Dissanayake and the NPP have pledged

Anura Kumara Dissanayake

to follow a non-aligned foreign policy that prioritises Sri Lanka's national interests. Regardless of the party in power in Sri Lanka, all past governments have maintained cordial and close ties with China, widely seen by Sri Lankans as a long-term ally, both in bilateral cooperation and at multilateral fora including UN bodies.

Ties with India

Meanwhile, addressing Colombo-based media on Tuesday, Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha said India opened the year "being extremely positive and buoyant" about its Sri Lanka partnership. President Dissanayake's recent visit added "renewed vigour" to ties, and deliberations have put the relationship on a "higher plane", he said.

Outlining highlights of the Sri Lankan President's December visit to India, including ongoing discussions on possible collaboration in the energy sector and connectivity, he said with India's recent move to convert some of its earlier loans to Sri Lanka into grants, the total grant assistance stood at $780 million.

Asked if India held any further discussion with the Sri Lankan government on Chinese research vessels, after Colombo's moratorium on foreign research ships expired, and following Mr. Dissanayake's visit, Mr. Jha said: "We have not had any further discussions." Pointing to Mr. Dissanayake's "categorical" statement in India, as well as the NPP's election manifesto, the Indian High Commissioner said: "We take Sri Lanka for its word... we completely trust Sri Lanka to take the right actions in that regard."

'Great importance'

Following his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 16, 2024, Mr. Dissanayake had said in a statement to the media in New Delhi: "I assured the Indian leader that Sri Lanka will not permit its territory to be used in any manner inimical to the security of India as well as towards regional stability," reiterating the NPP's position. Sri Lanka "attaches great importance to the continuous development and deepening of cooperation with India", he had said.

New Delhi has remained highly sensitive to the visit of Chinese research vessels that it believes are essentially spy ships and, on multiple occasions, raised concern with Mr. Dissanayake's predecessor government, prompting Colombo to introduce a moratorium. The Dissanayake government has said it will address the matter diplomatically and take decisions on a case-by-case basis.

French far-right politician Jean-Marie Le Pen dies at 96

Associated Press
PARIS

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the founder of France's far-right National Front who was known for fiery rhetoric against immigration and multiculturalism that earned him both staunch supporters and widespread condemnation, died on Tuesday. He was 96.

A polarising figure in French politics, Le Pen was convicted numerous times of antisemitism, discrimination and inciting racial violence.

Le Pen was eventually estranged from his daughter, Marine Le Pen, who renamed his National Front party, kicked him out and transformed it into one of France's most powerful political forces while distancing herself from her father's extremist image.

Jean-Marie Le Pen

Bangladesh revokes ousted PM Sheikh Hasina's passport

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh on Tuesday revoked the passport of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 96 others in connection with their role in the crackdown against protesters during the uprising of July-August 2024.

"The Passports Department cancelled the passports of 22 people involved in enforced disappearances while passports of 75 people including Sheikh Hasina were revoked due to their involvement in the July killings," said Abul Kalam Azad Majumdar, the Chief Adviser's Deputy Press Secretary.

Sheikh Hasina

The official did not reveal the names of the 96 others whose passports were also revoked.

The interim government of Bangladesh had made it clear after the swearing-in of Professor Mohammad Yunus as the Chief Advisor that the ousted Prime Minister's passport would be revoked.

Cancellation of the passport is expected to create hardships for India where Ms. Hasina is presently stationed since leaving Dhaka on August 5.

Apart from the cancellation of the passports, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit on Tuesday ordered all banks and financial institutions of the country to share with it the information and transaction details of Sheikh Hasina, her sister Rehana and son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and daughter Saima Wazed Putul among others.

Sport

SPORTSTAR ACES 2025

Sportstar of the Year (Female)

2024 was a landmark year for Indian sports with a host of achievements across several disciplines. The annual ***Sportstar Aces Award***s seek to honour the trailblazers.

MANU BHAKER

- Won bronze in the 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team events at the Paris Olympics
- Became the first Indian after independence to win multiple medals in a single edition of the Summer Games
- Bagged bronze in the women's 10m air pistol at the ISSF World Cup 2024 Stage II in Granada
- Nominated for the Khel Ratna Award

PREETHI PAL

- Won bronze medals in the 100m and 200m events in the Paris Paralympics
- Became India's first track medallist in Paralympic history
- Her feat made her the second Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals in the same edition
- Won bronze medals in the two sprint events at the World Championships in Kobe

AVANI LEKHARA

- Defended her Paralympic title by winning the women's 10m air rifle shooting standing SH1 event at the Paris Games
- Created a new Paralympic record with a score of 249.7 in the 2024 final
- Became the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic gold medals
- Overcame a tough buildup to the Games, undergoing surgery months before the Paralympics which forced her out of action for nearly two months

SMRITI MANDHANA

- Led Royal Challengers Bengaluru to maiden WPL title
- Finished with 1659 runs in the calendar year, most by a woman
- Scored five centuries in a calendar year, most by a woman
- Nominated for the ICC ODI Player of the Year Award

DEEPTHI JEEVANJI

- Won the 400m T20 bronze at the Paris Paralympics
- Clinched gold at the World Championships in Kobe
- Set a world record time in the 400m during the Worlds in Japan which was eventually broken during the Paralympics
- Nominated for the Arjuna Award

Voting lines open for 2025 Sportstar Aces Awards. Scan the QR code

Prannoy's match suspended due to a leaking roof; Treesa-Gayatri duo in last-16

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

India's H.S. Prannoy experienced a frustrating start to the season-opening Malaysia Super 100 badminton tournament as his match against Canada's Brian Yang was suspended midway due to a leaking roof at the Axiata Arena here on Tuesday.

Unexpected turn

Prannoy, returning to action after the Olympics, was leading 21-12, 6-3 when rainwater began seeping through the roof, forcing play to stop on Court 3 after 25 minutes into the match.

After a delay of over an hour, play resumed, but the match was halted again as the leak persisted.

Yang was leading 11-9 in the second game when officials decided to suspend the match, which will now resume on Wednesday.

Prannoy had raised the issue with the chair umpire after water started pooling on the left front section of the court.

The organisers inspected the area and decided to postpone the match.

Earlier in the day, India's women's doubles duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand easily overcame Ornnicha Jongsathapornparn and Sukitta Suwachai, beating the Thai pair in straight games in the opening round.

The Indian pair, seeded sixth here, won 21-10, 21-10 in just 30 minutes to secure a place in the round of 16.

The results:

Men: H.S. Prannoy leads Brian Yang (Can) 21-12, 9-11 (play suspended, to resume on Wednesday).

Women: Doubles: Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand bt Ornnicha Jongsathapornparn & Sukitta Suwachai (Tha) 21-10, 21-10.

IN THE RECKONING

Bumrah nominated for ICC Men's Player of the Month award

GETTY IMAGES

Jasprit Bumrah was on Tuesday nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for December 2024, after his standout performance against Australia in the just-concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Competing with Bumrah for the award is Australian skipper Pat Cummins and South Africa's Dane Paterson.

MISSING A TRICK

Shastri, Ponting express surprise over Shami's long absence

PTI

Ravi Shastri and Ricky Ponting feel pacer Mohammed Shami could have tilted the series in India's favour in Australia. "I was surprised with the communication going on in the media as to what exactly happened to Shami," Shastri said. "I was really surprised when he wasn't flown out even halfway through the series," said Ponting.

INTENSE RIVALRY

We know how to beat Aussies, says Rabada about WTC final

GETTY IMAGES

South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada says facing Australia in the WTC final in June has sparked anticipation and motivation in his side. "South Africa versus Australia has always been an intense rivalry because of the way we play. We play hard, and they're going to come hard at us. But we also know how to beat them," Rabada said.

DIFFERENT PARTS

Neeraj does not need Zelezny 365 days a year: Sumariwalla

PTI

Neeraj Chopra will not train with his coach Jan Zelezny throughout the year and seek his guidance only when required, outgoing AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said. "There are different parts to coaching — strength conditioning, technique, biomechanics, etc. These days, there is no coach attached to one athlete for 365 days," Sumariwalla said.

Lancers bring high-flying Bengal Tigers down

Brinkman stars with a brace while the young Dhami unleashes a spectacular reverse hit to help their side register a maiden win while the opponent suffers its first loss this season

HIL

Y.B. Sarangi
ROURKELA

Dutch forward Thierry Brinkman struck a brace as Vedanta Kalinga Lancers trounced table-topper Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers 6-0 to script its first win in the Hockey India League at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium here on Tuesday.

The host, with just one point so far, bounced back in style after three consecutive defeats to upset the off-colour Tigers, who tasted their first loss, and spread cheers in the stands.

Surging ahead: The Kalinga players celebrate after taking a 3-0 lead. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Exploring the gaps

Lancers switched flanks and explored the gaps through their fine distribution to have a stunning start, pumping in three goals within six minutes.

Captain Aran Zalewski sent in a pass from the right to Dilpreet Singh and the Indian crossed it to an unmarked Brinkman on the left to shoot home in the third minute.

Within a minute, Sanjay pounced on a rebound to convert Lancers' first penalty corner.

Alex Hendrickx used a diagonal angle to convert another short corner before Tigers could get their act together.

In the second quarter, Tigers moved better and closed the gaps to make Lancers work harder.

They also threatened the home citadel but could not beat a tight defence, led by an alert Krishan Pathak under the bar.

After missing out on six potential goal-scoring chances, Lancers made it 4-0 on the stroke of half-time when Nicholas Bandurak hit home from Antonie Kina's pass from the right. The ball got deflected from defender Jasjit Kular's stick.

Tigers missed a couple of opportunities, including the brilliant run of Sukhjeet Singh and Affan Yousuf in tandem and a penalty corner, as Pathak held his nerve and guarded his post.

Dilpreet spoiled a golden chance for Lancers too.

Lancers displayed some superb counters and extended their lead in the fourth quarter. The ever-active Brinkman traded passes with Bandurak on the left and completed his brace.

Young Boby Singh Dhami made it half a dozen of goals. He spectacularly unleashed a reverse hit from the circle line with his back to the goalpost.

The result:
Vedanta Kalinga Lancers 6 (Brinkman 3 & 47, Sanjay 4, Hendrickx 6, Bandurak 29, Dhami 49) bt Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers 0.

Former Asian Games gold medallist Sagoo elected new AFI president

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Asian gold medallist shot-putter and Padma Shri Bahadur Singh Sagoo was elected as the new president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on the opening day of its two-day Annual General Meeting here on Tuesday even as outgoing president Adille Sumariwalla announced new events and future plans for the federation.

With no other contender in the fray Bahadur, who won gold at the 2002 Asian Games, was elected unanimously to replace Sumariwalla, who stepped down after three consecutive terms.

Delhi Athletics' secretary Sandeep Mehta was elected as the new AFI secretary general, replacing Ravinder Chaudhary.

The biggest announcement, however, was the institution of a major javelin competition to cater to and build on the interest in the event in the country.

"It will be an invitational event with the top-10 throwers in the world coming and participating. Neeraj (Chopra) is also a part of organising it, along with AFI, JSW and a foreign firm all working together to create this new competition. It will be held sometime later in the year," Sumariwalla revealed, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major competitions in the coming years.

Change of guard: Sagoo takes over from Sumariwalla. X@AFI

India will host its first bronze level continental tour event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major competitions in the coming years.

About his tenure, Sumariwalla expressed satisfaction at the progress made by Indian athletics in the past 12 years. "The AFI was not in a good way when I took over... our president and secretary faced a lot of issues after the 2010 CWG and we had to bring it up from there. We worked on a two-pronged strategy – grassroots and elite.

"In elite, we brought in foreign coaches in seven events and in grassroots, we put in a lot of work to spread. It started with 100 districts 20 years ago and last year, we had 619 districts. I feel we are on the right path," he hoped.

He admitted things could have been better. "In hindsight, everything could have been better. One of the areas I would like to improve is doping. It's a serious problem and we will continue to fight it. The second is overage which looks under control but needs to be continued. Third is early overspecialisation and training, again a deep-rooted problem but it's a continuous process."

AFI office-bearers:
President: Bahadur Singh Sagoo; **Senior vice-president:** Anju Bobby George;
Vice-presidents: Abu Metha, Jayanta Malla Baruah, A.K. Sharma; **Secretary:** Sandeep Mehta; **Treasurer:** Stanley Jones Senior; **Joint secretary:** S. Srinibas Patnaik.
Joint-secretaries: Sharat Chandra Singh, Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, Finley L. Pariat; **Executive council members:** Sudha Singh, Harjinder Singh Gill, Sharda Devi Jadam, Priyanka Bhanot, Rachita Mistry, A. Rajavelu, K. Sarangapani.

Hardik riddle to dominate CT selection meeting

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The hardcore Indian cricket fans may still be coming to terms with a prolonged season of Test cricket that turned out to be a bitter pill to swallow. But the team management and the national selection panel have started planning for the next big test that's lying ahead for the men's cricket team, albeit in a different format.

With the ICC Champions Trophy – popularly touted as the mini World Cup – starting in six weeks, the deadline for submitting the squad is fast approaching. As a result, the selection panel is set to pick the preliminary squad for the marquee event on Friday, two days ahead of the January 12 deadline set by the International Cricket Council.

In his first assignment as the India head coach, Gautam Gambhir saw a full-strength ODI squad – barring Jasprit Bumrah – suffer a 2-0 reverse in the three-match series in Sri Lanka last July. Since then, the Men in Blue haven't played an ODI.

Diktat: Hardik has been asked to prove his match-fitness via domestic white ball tournaments. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

As a result, the selectors are unlikely to tinker around with the combination. However, the biggest talking point will be around the possible inclusion of Hardik Pandya. The enigmatic all-rounder will feature on top of the agenda with regard to the balance of the squad.

After getting injured during the 2023 World Cup, Hardik had not made himself available for any of the six ODIs India has played since then. He had thus been informed that he had to prove his match-fitness by featuring in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

The former T20I captain featured in three of Baroda's league stage games and will compete in the knockouts as well. It will be interesting to see if the selection committee is convinced about Hardik's match-fitness.

Barring Hardik and Jasprit Bumrah's anticipated return as a vice-captain, the selection committee is unlikely to tinker too much with the combination despite the series loss in Sri Lanka.

However, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Tilak Varma are likely to feature in the discussion for a possible slot in the batting group.

Sindhu, Lakshya and Satwiksairaj-Chirag pair to spearhead the Indian challenge

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

P.V. Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and R. Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty will spearhead the country's challenge at the third Yonex-Sunrise India Open next week with India fielding its largest-ever contingent in the competition.

The Super 750 event from January 14 to 19 at the Indira Gandhi Stadium – with a prize pool of $9,50,000 and 11,000 ranking points for the winners will have 21 Indian entries – men's singles (three), women's singles (four), men's doubles (two), women's doubles (eight), mixed doubles (four) – but it won't be a cakewalk for any of them with most of the top names confirming their participation at the biggest event in the country's badminton calendar.

Eight of the top-10 men in the world, including the medalists at the Paris Olympics, will be in action with World No. 1 Shi Yuqi, Indonesian Jonatan Christie and Olympic champion Dane Viktor Axelsen topping the seedings in the men's singles.

At the helm: Lakshya, Sindhu, and the duo of Satwiksairaj and Chirag will lead the Indian charge. FILE PHOTOS: SANDEEP SAXENA, PTI

While Lakshya, who won here in 2022, will likely run into fifth seed Li Shi Feng in the second round, he will first have to get past another Chinese challenge in Weng Hong Yang in the opening round, against whom he has a 3-3 record.

H.S. Pronnoy will be up against Christie in round two and Priyanshu Rajawat will face Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the opening match.

Among the women, 14 of the top-20 have confirmed participation including Olympic champion and World No. 1 An Se Young of Korea and bronze medallist Gregoria Marisa Tunjung of Indonesia. With Sindhu, returning to competition after her marriage, drawn against compatriot Anupama Upadhyaya, at least one Indian is confirmed in the seconnd round but it won't be as easy for Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap.

Chirag and Satwiksairaj (2024), currently participating in the Malaysia Open, will also look to regain their top position in the world, opening their campaign against the Malaysian pair of Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee. The duo participated in only one tournament since the Paris Olympics with Stawik struggling with shoulder injury.

They are the only ones to have reached the medal round since the event was upgraded to a Super 750 event in 2023 as part of the BWF World Tour.

Indian participants: Men: Lakshya Sen, H.S. Prannoy, Priyanshu Rajawat; **Doubles:** Chirag Shetty & R. Satwiksairaj, K. Sai Prathuthvi K. Roy.
Women: P.V. Sindhu, Malvika Bansod, Anupama Upadhyaya, Aakarshi Kashyap.
Doubles: Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand, Ashwini Ponnappa & Tanisha Crasto, Rutuparna Panda & Swetaparna Panda, Mansa Rawat & Gayatri Rawat, Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam, Sakshi Gahlawat & Apoorva Gahlawat, Sania Sikkandar & Rashmi Ganesh, Mrunmayee Deshpande & Prerana Alvekar.
Mixed doubles: Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto, K. Sathish Kumar & Aadya Variyath, Rohan Kapoor & G. Ruthvika Shivani, Ashith Surya & Amrutha Pramuthesh.

INBRIEF

Forest tames Wolves to maintain title challenge

Nottingham Forest's stunning season continued with a 3-0 victory at Wolves on Monday to give manager Nuno Espirito Santo a winning return to Molineux. Forest remains third in Premier League but moved level on points with Arsenal.

The result: Wolves 0 lost to Nottingham Forest 3 (Gibbs-White 7, Wood 44, Awoniyi 90+4).

Maulyaraj hits ton as Gujarat piles it on against Tamil Nadu

Maulyaraj Chavda (161) and Rudra Pritesh Patel (47) added 141 runs for the fourth wicket which propelled Gujarat to 287 for seven against Tamil Nadu at the end of day one in the under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy final in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

The scores: Gujarat 287/7 in 90 overs (Maulyaraj Chavda 161, Rudra Pritesh Patel 47, Nishit Gohil 39) vs. Tamil Nadu.

Qualifier Sumit Nagal exits early in Auckland

Qualifier Sumit Nagal lost 6-7(8), 6-4, 6-2 by eighth seed Alex Michelsen of USA in the first round of the $766,290 ATP tennis tournament in Auckland. Sumit, who had won two rounds in the qualifying event, collected 13 ATP points and $7,295.

Other results: $766,290 ATP, Adelaide: Doubles (first round): Sriram Balaji & Miguel Reyes-Varela (Mex) bt Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Rohan Bopanna 4-6, 6-2, [10-7].

$100,000 Challenger, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Pawit Sornlaksup & Thantub Suksumrarn (Tha) 7-6(3), 6-4.

$60,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Singles (first round): Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Punnin Kovapitukted (Tha) 6-3, 7-5.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Narrow win for Vidarbha

Vidarbha beat Karnataka by three wickets to hand the latter its second straight loss in the BCCI U-19 Women's One Day Trophy in Surat.

The scores: Karnataka 215 in 49 overs (Sloka Veerahyndhavi 43, Shreya S. Chavan 55, Lavanya Chalana 45, Shreya Shrikant Lanjewar 5/48) lost to Vidarbha 218/7 in 47.4 overs (Aarohi Bambode 40, Riddhima Maradwar 123, B.G. Tejashwini 3/31).

Second win for Karnataka

Karnataka made it two wins out of two, overcoming Chhattisgarh by two wickets in the BCCI U-23 Women's T20 Trophy in Cuttack.

The scores: Chhattisgarh 116/4 in 20 overs (Aishwarya Singh 50 n.o.) lost to Karnataka 117/8 in 19.2 overs (Sakshi Shukla 4/21, Shivani Yadav 3/17).

Rohith Reddy is Combined City's star

R. Rohith Reddy (176 n.o.) helped Combined City XI secure the first-innings lead over Secretary's XI in a drawn KSCA-Bangalore inter-district U-14 tournament.

The scores: Bangalore 258 in 80.1 overs (Vivaan Balamahesh 46, Aaryansinh Chavda 37, Niranjan Srinivas 26, Vikram 53, Soumith Kongara 26 n.o., M. Samarth Karumbaiah 4/68) & 90/2 in 32 overs (Vivaan Balamahesh 37) drew with President's XI 167 in 55.1 overs (Nitish Arya 119, Niranjan Srinivas 3/28, Aaryansinh Chavda 4/20).

Combined City XI 295/6 in 90 overs (R. Rohith Reddy 176 n.o., Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 35) drew with Secretary's XI 193 in 76.1 overs (Niranjan Ashok 63, Arnav Ravindra Dere 37, Prayag Bijesh 42, Amogh Srinivas 4/39).

Vice President's XI 210 in 84.1 overs (Shamanth K.C. Raju 57, Hannan Zaki Ahmad 67, Vyom Naidu 4/26) drew with Bangalore City XI 215/4 in 60 overs (Samarth Suresh 56, Mansoor Javed Eroor 43, Saad Rayyan Khan 55 n.o., Viaan Joshi 50 n.o.).

10-member State tennis team for National Games

Karnataka named a 10-member tennis contingent for the 38th National Games to be held in Dehradun from January 28 to February 14. The tennis competition will run from Feb. 5 to 11 and Karnataka is the defending men's team champion.

The squads: Men: S.D. Prajwal Dev, Niki Poonacha, Adil Kalyanpur, G. Manish, Rishi Reddy; **Reserve:** A. Deepak; **Coach-cum-manager:** Peter Vijay Kumar; **Captain:** Gokul Manjunath.

Women: Soha Sadiq, Amodini Vijay Naik, Siri M. Patil, Harshini Nagaraj, Sreenidhi Balaji; **Coach-cum-manager:** Indira Mani; **Captain:** Suraj S. Bikkannavar.

Jeevanbhimanagar rides on Akshay's effort

G. Akshay's all-round effort (2/41 & 137) was instrumental in Jeevanbhimanagar CC's five-wicket win over Chamarajpet CC in the KSCA (Group I) fourth division tournament.

The scores: Chamarajpet 277 in 50 overs (P. Lakshmikar Reddy 73, P.S. Shanuddin 45, Pratham Daga 25 n.o., Sachin 40, P. Preetham 3/56) lost to Jeevanbhimanagar 280/5 in 36.1 overs (G. Akshay 137, Sahan Che 66, Kayan Abbas 32).

Huttons 249 in 47.2 overs (S.R. Rakshith 51, Ronak Chawla 52, Abdur Rahman Anas 44, Ayyappa 5/30) bt Eminent Cricketers 125 in 25 overs (Lokanath Sali 33, Priyal Singh 43 n.o., P. Sri Bhagath 3/52, Abdur Rahman Anas 4/29).

Bharath 314 in 48.5 overs (Sachin R. Gankal 142, C.S. Yathiraj 40, S. Monish 40, Preetham 27, M.R. Raghu 25, S.M. Hanshal 3/51, S. Chethan 3/74) bt City Cricketers (1) 178 in 38 overs (L. Thejas 71, Sai Prasanna Sastry 45, K.P. Mahesh 3/30, S. Monish 3/19).

Sirurpark SC 115 in 43.4 overs (J. Abhishek 31, Domnic Rex 3/22) lost to Hanumanthnagar 119/9 in 30.4 overs (K.P. Mukund 44 n.o., S. Sree Roopesh 3/23, A. Vignesh Nag 5/20).

National United 318/9 in 50 overs (Ashith Shivanna 30, H.S. Ajay 67, N. Dheeraj 52, Vikram Ananth 36 n.o., R. Lokesh Singh 54, N. Muniraj 3/63) bt Elite Blues 128 in 33.2 overs (C.H. Kashish 30, Ajay G. Suresh 34, R. Lokesh Singh 4/36, Yeshwanth 3/19).

YFA SC 197 in 43.5 overs (Prathamesh D. Nayak 77, Gaurav Singh 37, Rahul 30, S. Sathish 3/39) lost to Merchant (1) 199/6 in 28.4 overs (K. Anil 75, Gautham R. Reddy 32, T.N. Suman 27).

Lions 164 in 45 overs (G. Santhosh 26, Shahid Ali 30, C. Abilash 33 n.o., Jude Nathenil 3/38) bt Select Cricketers 144 in 44.1 overs (Hemaraj Purohit 4/29).

Star SC, Nelamangala 146 in 42.5 overs (K.N. Vinay Kumar 30, S. Anugrah Victor Rajasingh 36 n.o., Sujay Korawar 3/23) lost to Ranji 147/2 in 28 overs (Adithya Vadhool 41, Pranav Kedlaya 37, R. Anand Kumar 33 n.o.).

Victory 275/9 in 50 overs (R. Manjunath 93, M. Hemanth 53, V.N. Rajath Nag 49 n.o.) bt Palace Orchard 228 in 46.1 overs (A.M. Chethan 54, M. Rahul 37, N.G. Vrijesh 36, J.H. Samrudh 52, N. Jayanth 4/46).

Sapphire 225/9 in 50 overs (Sudarshan Jayram Bhat 28, Pavan Gokhale 49 n.o., Dominic Fernandes 76, D. Ashok 3/23, Sunil S. Kumar 3/32) lost to Spartons SC 227/4 in 36.2 overs (Lakshmi Sagar 96, Naveen 29, Harshith Raj 32 n.o.).

Hockey selection trials

Hockey Karnataka will conduct trials on January 13 (10 a.m. onwards) at the Hockey Stadium in Shanthinagar, Bengaluru, to select the State senior women's team for the 38th National Games 2024 to be held in Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14.

Bangalore Independents edges out ASC & Centre

Bangalore Independents edged out ASC & Centre FC 2-1 in the BDFA Urbanrise Super Division League football here on Tuesday.

The results: Super Division: Roots FC 1 (Gautam Rajesh 11) drew with Kickstart FC 1 (Sridarth Nongmeikapam 45+3); Bangalore Independents FC 2 (R. Pradeep 34, H. Prashanth 88) bt ASC & Centre FC 1 (Wahengbam Niraj Singh 90).

B-div: South India FC bt Md. Sporting FC 2-1; Juno FC bt Bangalore Warriors FC 5-0; Vehicles FC bt Infinite Belagavi FC 5-2.

Big win for Haveri District

Haveri District HA thrashed Coorg HA 8-0 in the KSHA B-division hockey league here on Tuesday. In another encounter, Primrose HC drew with Ashco HC 3-3.

SNAPSHOTS

Delhi women Delhi beat MP in a thriller in National basketball

Delhi women scored a thrilling 76-71 victory over Madhya Pradesh in a Group-A league match of the 74th National basketball championship at Bhavnagar on Tuesday.

It was the second victory for the Delhi team, which was well served by Garima Gosain, Preeti Kumar, Prakriti Ranjan and Namrata.

In the men's section, Rajasthan scored a 82-70 victory over Kerala, with Ayush Choudhary top scoring with 19 points.

The results (league): Men:

Group-A: Rajasthan 82 (Ayush Choudhary 19, Piyush Meena 14, Mahaveer 14, Sharad Dadich 10, Jaideep Rathore 10) bt Kerala 70 (Sejin Mathew 20, Vaisak Manoj 13, Antony Johnson 12).

Group-B: Karnataka 75 (Prathyanshu Tomar 18, Aaron Michael 14) bt Madhya Pradesh 51 (Harshvardhan Singh 15).

Punjab 89 (Gurwinder Singh 20, Amritpal Singh 17, Kanwar Gurbaz Singh Sandhu 17, Amjyot Gill 14) bt Chandigarh 47.

Women:

Group-A: Punjab 73 (Manmeet Kaur 25, Priyanka Behal 23, Komalpreet Kaur 11) bt Karnataka 62 (T Mohanabala 18).

Delhi 76 (Garima Gosain 19, Preeti Kumar 15, Prakriti Ranjan 15, Namrata 12) bt Madhya Pradesh 71 (Yashika Singhal 22, Riya Khunghadkar 16, Priya Goswami 10).

Group-B: Chhattisgarh 89 (Divyani Gangwal 28, Nisha Kashyap 21, shanti Xaxa 15) bt Uttar Pradesh 81 (Jasmeen Kaur 27, Manali Vora 20, Rakhi Rai 11).

Gujarat 65 (Aahana George 14, Hemangnee Gamit 14, Talveer Kaur 11) bt Uttar Pradesh 60 (Anushka Chouhan 18, Nancy Gupta 16, Manali Vora 11).

Vrinda and Nandini score centuries in senior Women's one-day Challenger Trophy

Team-C rode on D. Vrinda's 109 (105b, 15x4, 1x6) as it beat Team-B by 82 runs in the BCCI senior Women's one-day Challenger Trophy on Monday. Shefali Verma's (95) and Dhara Gujjar's (98) 175-run opening stand helped Team-A beat Team-E by five wickets.

Vrinda (Team-C, 109); Nandini (Team-E, 131).

Earlier, Nandini Kashyap had scored 131 (125b, 19x4) for Team-E.

The scores: Team-C 277 in 48.5 overs (D. Vrinda 109, Yastika Bhatia 68, Riya Chaudhari 40, Radha Yadav 4/48, Isha Pathare 3/48) bt Team-B 195 in 43.4 overs (Sasthi Mondal 35, Mita Paul 34, Arushi Goel 36, Kashvee Gautam 3/19, Prema Rawat 3/27).

Team-E 301/6 in 50 overs (S. Shubha 35, Nandini Kashyap 131, Shweta Sehrawat 33, Priyanka Bala 30, Amanjot Kaur 38, Tanusree Sarkar 4/45) lost to Team-A 303/5 in 46.2 overs (Shafali Verma 95, Dhara Gujjar 98, Ayushi Soni 3/28).

Kohli might benefit from a stint in county cricket ahead of England tour

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

A poor result usually speeds up transition, and this Indian team has been in transition for a while now. The pace of change, however, has been slow, with the odd win here or a triumph in another format there prolonging the process. Will a white-ball series win over England at home (series commencing Jan 22) be the solvent that removes the stain of the defeat in Australia? Such things have happened before.

The second half of the Ranji season commences soon – how many will use that to consolidate their positions or rediscover form? It is not merely the number of runs or wickets that will be significant, the opposition matters too. A century against Meghalaya cannot carry the same weight as one against Mumbai.

If only the Indians had played with half the aggression displayed by their coach at press conferences! Gautam Gambhir was a wonderful batter, but his record as coach is under the scanner – three defeats each in the last two series. The one at home against New Zealand was the most startling result of the season.

India's next series is in England five months away. The planning has to start now.

It might not be a bad idea for some batters – Virat Kohli certainly – to seek a county contract in England ahead of the tour. Kohli continues to be the fittest Indian player, and there is no drop in his hunger. But there is a technical issue outside his off stump – first exposed consistently in England ten years ago – which he has overcome before, and away from international cricket might do so again.

It will also give both the selectors and Kohli himself a final chance to assess the batter's suitability for the tour. If he regains his touch, Indian cricket will benefit; if he doesn't, no one can complain if he is dropped.

Ironically, Kohli, who struggled in England then, finishing with a highest of 39 and an average of 13, went to Australia four months later and began that series with a century in each innings. Will the traffic be in the opposite direction this time? He was 26 then, he is 36 now. A stint in county cricket would be a good start especially since it is possible that Rohit Sharma has played his last Test.

A tour of Australia is never easy, even if fans in India had assumed that since their team had won the previous two series there, they would again. Momentum is one of the biggest misconceptions in sport.

The difference between a 2-2 finish and a 1-3 is startling, but that is the nature of arithmetic. The result favoured the better team. A draw might have pushed under the carpet many issues in Indian cricket, from the superstar syndrome to the overstaffed coaching section; from technical inadequacies to the illogic of team selection.

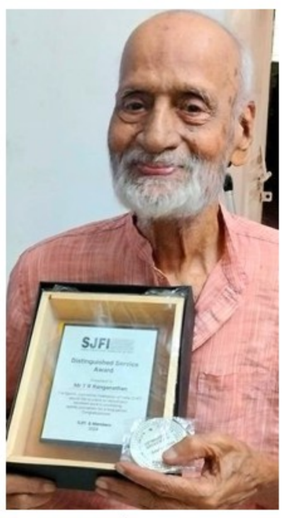
India had their backs to the wall for most of the series but couldn't rub off the writing on it. Coaches shouting at the players after a bad performance is not unusual; sometimes such stories leak to the media as it did in Australia. Stories of disharmony tend to feed on themselves, and speculation very quickly becomes fact.

Overreaction

Sunil Gavaskar's 'Stupid, stupid, stupid' response to Rishabh Pant's dismissal in Melbourne that sparked India's defeat might have been an overreaction even if deserved. But it had the effect of Pant batting with all the confidence of a deer caught in the headlights in his next innings before normal service was resumed.

To get the team selection so consistently wrong was astonishing. India playing Washington Sundar on a green top at the expense of a fast bowler or an extra batter – with domestic successes Abhimanyu Easwaran or Sarfraz Khan just passengers – was merely the final one. Sundar bowled one over in the match!

One bad session in Melbourne, when India lost seven wickets for 34 runs, and with it the match can be passed off as unfortunate. But six innings under 200? That's a systemic failure. Gambhir said at the press conference following the series that "Five months is a long time (before the England tour)...." But the future has a way of knocking on the door when you are least prepared.



T.R. Ranganathan.

Veteran sports journalist Ranganathan passes away

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

T.R. Ranganathan (91), former assistant editor (Sports Desk) of *The Hindu*, who served the organisation for 32 years, passed away here on Tuesday.

He is survived by wife, son and daughter. Cremation will take place at Besant Nagar on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

TRR, as he was fondly called, mentored quite a few young journalists.

Recently, the Sports Journalists' Federation of India and the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association honoured him with a memento for his meritorious service.

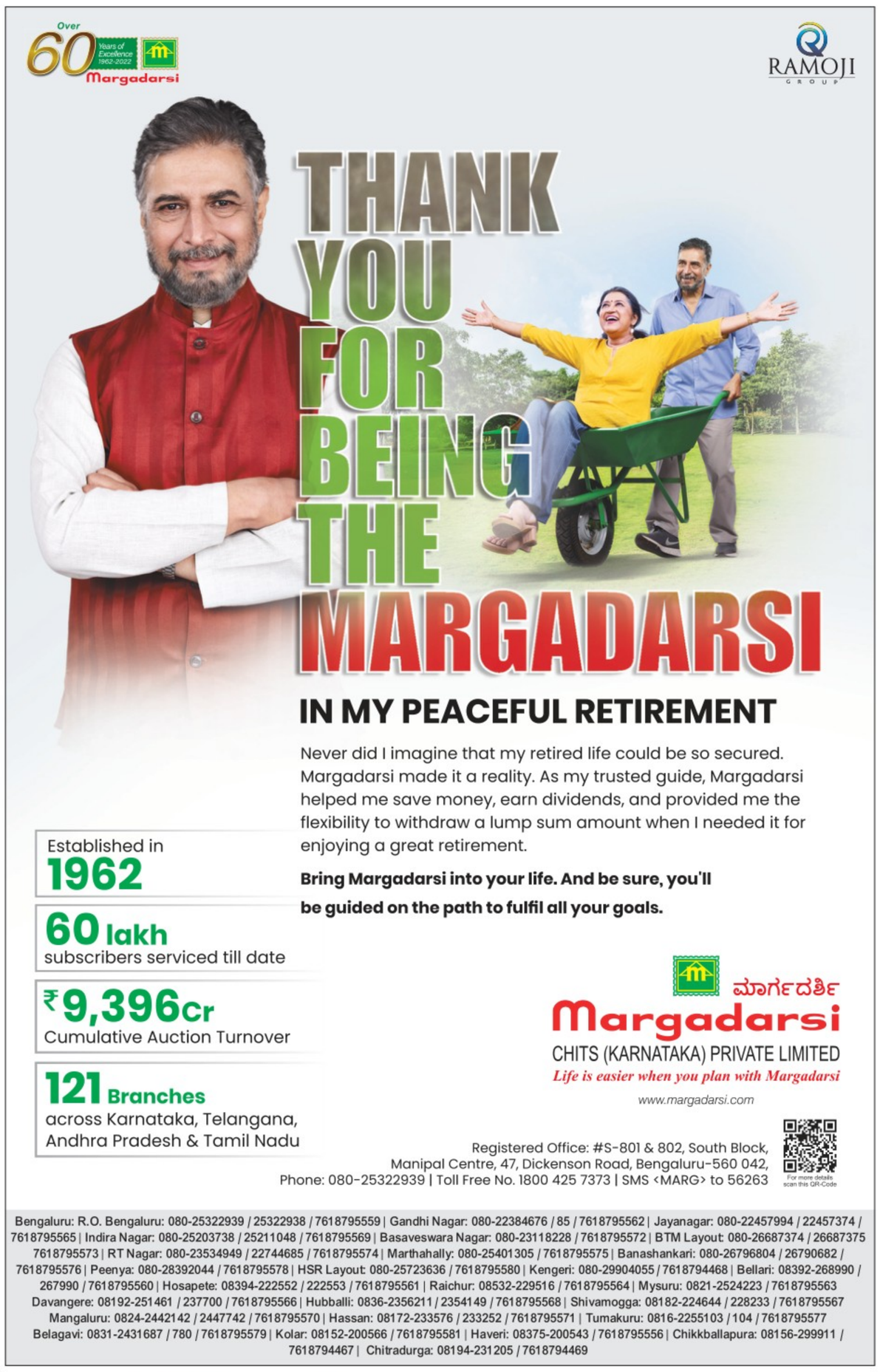
LIVE TELECAST

New Zealand vs Sri Lanka: 2nd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD), LIV & Prime Video, 6.30 a.m.

Badminton: Malaysia Open, Sports 18-1 & Hotstar, 6.30 a.m.

Hockey: HIL, DD Sports, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 & LIV, 6 & 8.15 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.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